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FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 1853.

[SIXPENCE.]

THE INAUGURATION ADDRESS OF THE NEW AMERICAN PRESIDENT.

On the 4th of March—as we learn from the latest Transatlantic intelligence, conveyed by the *Arctic*—the inauguration of General Pierce as President of the United States took place, at Washington, with such simple ceremonial as the severe forms of Republican government dictate. The usual Address pronounced by American Presidents upon assuming office was listened to with great interest, and evoked general approbation. The capitol was very full, and the occasion was felt to be one of great importance.

The Address is somewhat vague, but still we have before us enough of General Pierce's views to be able to estimate in some degree his policy. It is true that these views do not appear to us to present a perfect consistency, or an unbroken coherency. The tone of the speech—its sentiment and tendency—vary; and the aggressive and defiant passages contrast oddly with professions of a peaceful policy, and a strict observance of international law.

The General began by a natural expression of gratitude to the people who had raised him to his present elevation, and next entered into a dignified eulogium on the Constitution of the United States, which had thus far fulfilled its duties to suffering humanity; and never ceased, by its prosperity, its tranquillity, and its rapidly increasing intelligence and wealth, to announce to the whole world the results of the largest rational liberty. To the truth of this assertion no positive objection can be made. In the history of nations, the rapid rise and unchecked progress of America stands unrivalled. And though, of course, much of her extraordinary career is to be attributed to the as extraordinary natural facilities afforded her, yet the constitutional freedom of the States may be fairly said to have always exercised as great an effect as the boundless prairie and the endless river. This result, President Pierce added, had dispelled a degree of solicitude which had formerly been strongly felt, as to the possible evil results of a vast extension of American power and American soil. The orator alluded to the bold hearts and far-reaching intellects of the men who had been disturbed by gloomy visions of the future, which he regarded as being now entirely dispelled. We may fairly, however, question—and that from the very document before us—whether the time has even yet arrived which their “far-reaching” intellects stretched to. “The apprehension,” the orator continues, “of increased danger from extended territory and multiplied states, has been proved to be quite unfounded. The greater our power—our wealth—our hold of the earth's surface, the better our position.” From this statement of principle there can be but one inference; and here it is:—“The policy of my administration will not be controlled by any timid forebodings of evil from expansion.” An ominous sentence, this; and reading “annexation” in every letter. The “timid forebodings of evil from expansion”—the lesson read from the past as to the policy of the future; all this has a deep significance, which the context increases and confirms. “Indeed”—such was the pith of the President's words—“it is not to be disguised that our attitude as a nation and our position on the globe, render the acquisition of certain possessions not within our jurisdiction, eminently important for our protection, if not in the future essential for the preservation of the rights of commerce and the peace of the world.” We can imagine the feelings of the auditors as they listened to this enunciation of aggressive policy. Cuba swam before their eyes; the rich territories of Mexico rose up to their gaze. Did it—there is a sort of possibility of the fact—extend to the mountains of Jamaica, and certain continental possessions called Berbice and Demerara? At all events, more soil, more space, more extended dominion

are passions never absent from the heated mind of a true American. A phantom of aggression is continually beckoning, and eagerly does the nation obey. Yet, let it be observed how General Pierce now changes his tone and proceeds to drape his warlike image in a sort of drab Quaker costume. The conquests of the unambitious States will be made through no grasping spirit, but in a manner “entirely consistent with the strictest observance of international faith.” General Pierce will read to the world its first lesson in the art of appropriating independent States in the severest spirit of self-denial, and seizing upon the property of one's neighbours with the highest respect for every moral precept and every established law. That “we have nothing in our history or position to invite aggression,” is a curious statement from an American General who won his military rank in a pure war of aggression, and whose voice has always been for gaining territory at all costs and all risks. But up to what point does all this boast of intention to add ever so many more stars to the thirty-three, which we believe at present constitute the United States constellation—lead up to? “Relations of peace and amity with all nations”—“purposes at once just and pacific,” and the careful avoidance of any “act which cannot challenge a ready justification before the tribunal of the civilised world.” Surely this conclusion sounds oddly, drawn from such opposite premises. The trumpet has become a shepherd's reed. The signal to charge fades away into a pastoral melody, but somehow leaves a warlike impression ringing in the ear and in the brain, which survives the succeeding billing and cooing, if it do not drown it. Notwithstanding, however, the President goes on with his pacific strain:—“The great objects of our pursuit as a people are best to be attained by peace.” A great truth; but unfortunately quite inconsistent with one or two preceding passages, in which the “timid forebodings of evil from expansion” are derided, and the “acquisition of certain possessions” is warmly advocated.

These points passed, the remaining portion of the speech is

unobjectionable. It refers to the determination of the States to keep clear of European warfare, but to cultivate European commerce. The doctrine of reciprocity is strictly laid down—a fact which we trust may prove an indication that we are about to reap some benefit from the repeal of the Navigation-laws. The state of international copyright is also included in the idea. The maintenance of standing armies is next sternly repudiated—an opinion which very few of our own generals would be likely to share in. “Devoted integrity in the public service, and observance of rigid economy,” are pledges, of course; and the Address concluded, by an assurance that the speaker is totally a stranger to all ties and associations, personal or political, which might influence his conduct as a ruler; and a promulgation of his opinion somewhat in the style of a postscript, that the “compromise” laws of 1850, relating to the slavery system, are strictly constitutional, and ought to be unhesitatingly carried into effect. This declaration, however, it will be observed, contradicts the preceding statement, as General Pierce now acknowledges belonging to a political party. The Southern States carried him into office, and to the Southern States it is known that he has ever been inclined by birth, by opinion, and by gratitude.

MEMOIR OF GENERAL PIERCE.

THE new President of the United States is developing extraordinary and unexpected qualifications for the Presidential office. His force of character, his political experience, his chivalrous bravery in the field, and his statesmanlike sagacity in council, afford the amplest warrant for the general belief that the destinies of the Union could not be entrusted to firmer or more prudent hands.

His friends agree that the most remarkable characteristic of his mind is its progressive growth and development. His biographer and early companion, Nathaniel Hawthorne, says of him, whenever they met in early life:—“Always I was sensible of progress in him. He widened, deepened, rose to a higher point, and thus ever made himself equal to the ever heightening occasion.” We make thus prominent mention of a peculiarity of intellectual growth, continued beyond an ordinary period, because General Pierce's tendencies are favourable to Free-trade; and because the happy and prosperous results of the great commercial experiment made by this country are not likely to be lost upon the mind of an enlightened statesman, so well able to discern the needs of the age as the new President of the United States.

Franklin Pierce, the sixth son of General Benjamin Pierce, was born at Hillsborough, New Hampshire, Nov. 23, 1804. His father, who was one of the earliest settlers of Hillsborough, left his home in 1775, after the events at Lexington and Concord, and joined the revolutionary army. He fought at Bunker's-hill, and served through the whole of the War of Independence. He was afterwards elected to the State Legislature, and became member of the Council. He was brave, public-spirited, and patriotic; and lived to be elected Governor of New Hampshire, and to enjoy in a green old age the distinctions which the virtues and talents of his son enabled him early to achieve.

Franklin Pierce (or Frank Pierce, as he is now familiarly known throughout the Union) received his earliest education at Hancock, and afterwards at Franceston, under Peter Woodbury, father of the eminent judge. In 1820, being then sixteen, he became a student of Bowdoin College, in Brunswick, Maine. During the early part of his college career the claims of physical development somewhat interfered with the manifestations of his intellectual activity; but during the two latter years he gained an honourable elevation in his class. It is stated, that during one of his winter vacations Pierce taught a country school. He determined to choose the profession of the law, and became a student with Judge Woodbury. He afterwards studied at the Law Seminary of Northampton, in Massachusetts, and afterwards entered the office of Judge Parker, at Amherst.

He was called to the bar in 1827, and began to practice at Hillsborough. His first forensic effort is said to have been a failure, but the young lawyer assured his friends that he should live to argue cases in the Court-house at Hillsborough in a manner that would mortify neither himself nor his friends. He lived brilliantly



GENERAL PIERCE, THE NEW PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.—FROM A DAGUERRETYPE BY MEADE BROTHERS, NEW YORK.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL NEWS.

FRANCE.

(From our own Correspondent.)

PARIS, Thursday.

Dear Readers—We have sat down to our desk, we have mended our pen (which fact will form the subject of an interesting note to our biographers, as proving that we do not use a steel one), we have scribbled a few flourishes, and drawn a few impossible heads on the page of our blotting-book; we have gazed vacantly out of the window and dreamily into the fire in search of inspiration, and we find that nothing comes of it; we have literally nothing new, startling, amusing, interesting, or exciting, to tell you of the sayings and doings of this "petit Paris près St. Denis." It has got the vapours, the blue devils, the spleen; it does not amuse itself, or anybody else; it does not even talk politics—much; it can't feast or dance, on account of Lent; so it games, loses its money, quarrels over the cards, and speaks ill of its neighbour; catches the grippe, and is laid up—none of which proceedings tend to improve its spirits or temper. It is to be hoped Easter will bring some change in this state of affairs, and that *les œufs de Pâques* may contain somewhat to restore its smiles and gaiety. You all know what are *les œufs de Pâques*, do you not? ("Friend, thou first tellest me a lie, and then askest me a question," said a Quaker when an interrogatory was put to him in the above form). Yes, of course, you reply, *mais faites comme si nous ne le savions pas*. Well, then, it is the custom here at Easter to have at all the confectioners' shops, eggs made of sugar or chocolate, varying in size from those of a pigeon to the dimensions of the roc's egg of the "Arabian Nights." These *œufs* are hollow, and as they are made to open, in them may be placed anything that the fancy of the purchaser may suggest, and they are then given about among friends. Presents of great value, jewels, works of art, precious articles of all sorts, find their way into the Easter eggs, as well as the merest trifles: nothing, from a ruby bracelet to a tiny game of dominoes in bone, comes amiss to the stomachs of these omnibuses of eggs; and seldom does their opening fail to be greeted with exclamations of surprise and satisfaction, more especially among the junior members of the community, who generally find in them some coveted toy, some long-wished-for object, the desire for whose possession maternal ears have heard, and maternal memories have silently noted to be fulfilled on this occasion.

An event which has caused considerable regret in the theatrical world, has extended its interest to the higher circles of society, as being said to be closely connected with a similar one of late occurrence in this privileged set. Mlle. Marthe, a young actress of considerable talent, of the *Gymnase* theatre, who possessed already a sufficient fortune—with youth, some good looks, great charms of manner and conversation, and whose amiable character and disposition made her universally beloved among her friends and *camarades*—last week committed suicide, by that mode so frightfully common in Paris, inhaling the fumes of charcoal. Various reasons have been given for this desperate act. The disgust and *ennui* caused by the false and fictitious atmosphere in which her position placed her—the desire for a higher and purer destiny, without the power or energy to quit her present sphere—have been particularly cited, and we believe with reason, as tending to the melancholy *finale*; but the immediate cause was, we are assured, the event narrated in the commencement of our last week's letter. Poor girl! While condemning the fearful act which terminated her short career, we would appeal to all who place mercy before sacrifice, to pity the struggles, the sufferings, the errors into which a neglected youth and falsely-nourished maturity plunged one whose very crime proved the existence of a desire for better things—a desire which probably want of training and encouragement alone prevented from bearing fruit.

It is now positively asserted that the Pope is to come to Paris—we believe in May—for the coronation of the Emperor and Empress; we may, however, add, that certain doubts are still by many entertained as to the truth of the declaration. Meantime, the *Saint Père* has, for the moment, enough to do to settle the battles of his children, the clergy of France. The apple of discord is the *Univiers*—a religious journal, under the guidance of M. Veuillot, who has written therein certain articles which have called for the loud and open censure of the Archbishop of Paris. Hereupon, the Bishop of Moulins takes up the cudgels for M. Veuillot and the *Univiers*; others join him: the Archbishop has also, of course, his supporters: a general *mêlée* ensues: *Gallican* and *Ultramontane* are borne on the two banners: his Holiness is called in to settle the point; and while he—no doubt, a good deal puzzled how to decide the matter—delays pronouncing his judgment, the rival parties carry on the war—half political, half religious—with increased vigour, and considerable acerbity: and the Romanists tell us that they are *always* united; that they never have any of the differences which disturb our Protestant churches!

A funeral—which, from the circumstances attending the life and death of the deceased, has excited an extreme interest both in private and political circles here—took place on Sunday—that of Madame Raspail, the wife of the celebrated surgeon and *savant*, who, for his political opinions has for years known no other house than a prison; where the direst poverty and the most bitter hardships have surrounded his declining years, and in which the self-devotion and incessant cares of his wife have been his only earthly support and consolation. Upwards of 30,000 persons, of all conditions and all ages, followed to the tomb, in solemn silence, the remains of this admirable woman, "whose life," says the *Press*, "is told in these three words—abnegation, devotion, and humility." Such demonstrations of public interest, peaceful as they are, are not without their significance.

It appears that the ball of the *Corps Législatif* is put off indefinitely; that is to say, from the Easter Monday to the beginning of April; but no day is fixed for its celebration, and it seems by no means improbable it will be given up altogether.

The week of spring with which we were indulged has been again replaced by winter, with grey skies and bitter east winds, putting to rout the summery toilettes, which, like butterflies, came forth with the first days of sunshine. The greatest attraction for the thousands who came to bask in the Champs Elysées has been the beautiful exhibition of flowers there, displayed in a temporary building erected with great taste and skill for the purpose. Camellias, rhododendrons, hyacinths, and azaleas were the principal flowers exhibited; and some exquisite specimens, particularly of the last-named species, were displayed; a double rose-coloured azalea, named after the Emperor, was certainly one of the most beautiful we have ever seen; and a white one, with scarlet stripes (*Azalea Beauli*), from the gardens of Messrs. Standish and Noble, of Bagshot, attracted universal attention, and was honoured with a first prize. Some very fine ananyses were also displayed, and some remarkably large pine-apples. Apart from the flowers, a portion of the building was devoted to instruments of horticulture, ornamental vases, *jardinières*, fountains, &c., in various materials; some of these in pottery were beautiful both in taste and execution.

The *Odéon* has produced a piece, of which the great and merited success calls for honourable mention—"L'Honneur et l'Argent," such is the title of the work, written by M. Ponsard, whose name as poet and dramatist stands at the head of his class. The plot may be told in a few words:—*Georges*, with a fortune of 30,000 francs a year, is about to marry *Laure*, the daughter of M. Mercier, a rich and matter-of-fact bourgeois, when his father dies, leaving nothing but some thousand pounds of debt, the fruit of imprudent speculations. His mother has, however, left him a moderate fortune, safe from the wreck; and *Georges* has the choice of accepting the debts of his father and retrieving that father's honour by giving up his all to pay them, or the fortune of his mother, securing him a competence with a sullied name. Generous and high-principled, he takes the first alternative; but, being thereby reduced to absolute poverty, M. Mercier withdraws his consent to the marriage, and commands his daughter, one of those weak-souled and yielding natures which may be forced into evil from want of courage to hold to good, to resign *Georges* and wed a man she does not love. After bitter struggles with his destiny, touchingly and exquisitely portrayed, our hero, whose strength has almost given way, meets in *Lucile*, the sister of *Laure*, the devotion, energy, and courage in which she had been so wanting. Reanimated by her affection and hopeful spirit, aided by her in obtaining the loan of a sum requisite to establish him in an honourable profession, he recovers a moderate but secure means of existence. The rich husband of the unhappy *Laure* is ruined, and in his failure engulfs a large portion of the fortune of M. Mercier, who is now but too happy to accord the hand of his second daughter to the rejected suitor of the elder; and all ends happily, as such a piece should end. The poetry—the play is in verse—is of first-rate merit, the delineation of the characters admirable; and, as will be seen, the moral of the piece merits a commendation we can but too rarely accord to French dramatic works.

The steam-ship *Cerberus*, on the 10th, disembarked at Marseilles 300

to verify his own prediction, but for some years professional practice came in but slowly. In 1829, his fellow-townsmen elected him their representative in the Legislature of the State of New Hampshire, in which he sat four years. In 1833, he was elected a member of Congress, and gave a warm support to the Administration of General Jackson. The old hero is said to have had upon his death-bed a prophetic foresight of his young friend's destiny, and remarked to a mutual friend that the interests of the country would be safe in such hands. Here Franklin Pierce avowed those views upon the slavery question, which the opponents of abolition regard as only a due recognition of the rights pledged to the south by the constitution.

In 1837, Pierce was elected to the Senate of the United States. Mr. Van Buren, who was then President, having been defeated, in 1840, by the Whig leader, General Harrison, the Government of the country was snatched by the Whigs, for the first time during twelve years. Mr. Pierce greatly distinguished himself as a member of the Democratic Opposition; but, in 1842, he determined to retire from the Senate, and to resume the practice of his profession, in order to make some pecuniary provision for his young family. He took up his residence at Concord, the capital of New Hampshire, and so highly distinguished himself as an advocate, that, in 1846, he was offered by President Polk the post of Attorney-General of the United States. He refused this high distinction, declaring that nothing but the call of his country in time of war should separate him again from his family.

It can hardly be said that the contingency contemplated by Mr. Pierce occurred when the Mexican war broke out in 1847. A lawyer, in full practice, might have left it to more unsettled and adventurous spirits to volunteer for service in Mexico, without the smallest impeachment upon his patriotism. But Pierce knew well the passion of his countrymen for military glory; and ambition probably whispered, at this early period, that his chance of ever obtaining the highest honour that could be conferred upon a citizen of the United States would be materially strengthened if he could find an opportunity, in the coming war, of displaying the unquestionable courage and talent for military command which he had inherited with his father's good name. He applied for employment, and obtained the colonelcy of a New England regiment. In March, 1847, he was appointed to the rank of Brigadier-General, his brigade consisting of regiments collected from the most distant portions of the Union. The romantic courage displayed by these American volunteers, in the Mexican war, was worthy the days of chivalry; and no higher praise can be given to General Pierce, than that he was worthy to be the leader of these citizen soldiers. General Pierce and his troops landed at Vera Cruz. He ordered them to be marched to an encampment upon an extensive sand-beach upon the gulf, where he had time to examine whether any and what preparations had been made for his departure to join the army under General Scott. The mules that had been collected had been carried off by the enemy; and the Mexicans told him he would lose almost all his men by the climate and the vomito before he could begin his march into the interior. Wild mules, unaccustomed to harness, had to be collected and broken in; and, after a cruel delay of more than three weeks, the troops began the march, in the earlier part of which the General says:—"We were occupied rather in breaking the animals to harness than in preparing a march." After many encounters with the Mexican Guerilla, in which General Pierce saw with delight the steadiness of his men under fire, the troops, 2400 in number, reached the main army at Puebla on the 7th August, without the loss of a wagon.

General Scott, as soon as Pierce's reinforcement arrived, began his march towards the capital. A few days afterwards, it was necessary to attack an entrenched camp—in which 7000 Mexicans, under General Valencia, were found posted—at Contreras. General Pierce's brigade was fiercely engaged, when, in passing over a broken tract, his horse slipped among the rocks, and fell heavily upon his rider. The General fainted, and, for a few moments, lost his consciousness. When he came to himself, he found he had severely sprained his left knee, upon which the horse had fallen, and that he had received, likewise, some severe bruises. Contrary to the advice of the surgeon, he persisted in going to the front, and, having found a horse, the rider of which had received a mortal wound, he was lifted into the saddle, and rode into the fight. When nightfall came the entrenchment was still held by the Mexicans, and the attack was renewed next morning, when General Pierce, notwithstanding the pain and want of sleep caused by his injured knee, again got into the saddle, and took his post at the head of his brigade. The fort was stormed, and the enemy fled. They were pursued to Churubusco, and here Santa Anna rallied his army and offered battle. Pierce was sent for by the Commander-in-Chief, who told him he was badly injured, and not fit to be in his saddle.

"You are rash, General Pierce," said he; "we shall lose you, and we cannot spare you. It is my duty to order you back to St. Augustine." "For God's sake, General," exclaimed Pierce, "don't say that. This is the last great battle, and I must lead my brigade!" The Commander-in-chief made no further remonstrance, but gave the order for Pierce to advance with his brigade.

In the excitement of the battle, he forgot his injury, and hurried forward, leading the brigade, a distance of two or three hundred yards. But the exhaustion of his frame, and particularly the anguish of his knee—made more intolerable by such free use of it—was greater than any strength of nerve, or any degree of mental energy, could struggle against. He fell, faint and almost insensible, within full range of the enemy's fire. It was proposed to bear him off the field; but, as some of his soldiers approached to lift him, he became aware of their purpose, and was partially revived by his determination to resist it. "No," said he, with all the strength he had left, "don't carry me off! Let me lie here!" And there he lay, under the tremendous fire of Churubusco, until the enemy, in total rout, was driven from the field.

Pierce's brigade was engaged in the battle of Molino; but the General was prevented from participating in the glory of Chapultepec, the last battle of the war, by his injuries and over-exertions, which rendered him unable to leave his bed for two days. When the city of Mexico fell into the hands of the conquerors, the officers of the regular army rendered full justice to the daring valour of General Pierce's brigade, and to the indomitable fortitude with which the General had borne up against the anguish of injuries which would have sent most other men to the hospital.

After the war, General Pierce gave up his commission, and returned to New Hampshire, where he resumed the dry profession of the law. In 1850 he was elected president of a convention for revising the constitution of his native state. In June, 1852, he became the nominee of the Democratic National Convention, assembled at Baltimore, to select a candidate for the Presidency of the United States. When the result of the ballot was declared, "quickly as the lightning flash could blazon it abroad, his name was on every tongue, from end to end of his vast country. Within an hour he grew to be illustrious." When the news of his election to the Presidential office reached Concord, the Democrats of that town were wild with delight. The General was the only self-possessed, calm, and quiet man in the place.

General Pierce's habits are plain and unostentatious. His legal practice yields him a large income, but he is said to be generous to a fault; and the lovers of "good men's feasts" predict that he will spend every cent of his Presidential allowance of 25,000 dollars a year. Up to the period of his election he boarded, at Concord, in the family of a coach-maker; the health of Mrs. Pierce being too feeble for the fatigues of housekeeping. The writer of a private letter, who attended the Scotch Church (Congregational or Presbyterian) speaks of General Pierce as a regular and devoted attendant upon divine service.

The subject of this memoir married, in 1834, Jane Mears, daughter of the Rev. Dr. Appletton, a former president of Bowdoin College. Three children were the issue of this marriage. One died in early infancy; another in 1844, a little boy of four years old, of great beauty, and most engaging disposition. This death was the greatest affliction that his father had yet experienced. All his hopes were now centred in his remaining child, a son of between eleven and twelve years old, of remarkable promise, whose recent tragical death by a railroad accident under the eyes, and in the presence of his fond and distracted parents, excited a profound and intense feeling of sympathy and grief throughout the civilised world. May the new President find in the gratification of his patriotic aspirations for the welfare of his country, that comfort and happiness which an inscrutable Providence has denied him to seek in the exercise of paternal affection, and the pursuit of unclouded domestic happiness!

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.—A parliamentary paper has been issued, which contains the returns made to the railway department of the Board of Trade of the railway accidents which happened during the half-year, ending June 30, 1852, from which it appears that the total number of persons of every description killed and injured on all the passenger railways open for public traffic in Great Britain and Ireland during that period, amounted to eighty-three killed and ninety-nine injured. The number of passengers conveyed during the half-year amounted to 32,219,005.

political offenders from Oran, who had been pardoned. The *Aller* has sailed from Toulon, for Cayenne, with 300 convicts.

Several cases of cholera have again made their appearance in Paris. Count Turgot is, it is said, nominated Ambassador of France at Madrid.

The Legislative Body have voted some bills respecting the purchase of Preference Shares in the canals, the calling out of 80,000 conscripts, and the postal correspondence between France and her western colonies. It is believed that the disputed point about the Holy Shrines is settled; Russia being satisfied with the concessions made by France. Louis Napoleon, whose foreign policy is said to be directed towards obtaining the presence of the Pope to perform the ceremony of his coronation, has, it is stated, consented to renounce the concessions obtained by M. Lavalette from the Porte.

The Emperor has positively insisted upon a balance being struck between the income and the expenditure. Thirty-four million francs of expenditure, thought necessary by Ministers for the public service, have been struck off by the Emperor in person during the recent secret discussions in the Council of State at the Tuilleries. It is more than doubtful, the *Moniteur* hints, whether such a reduction could have been obtained by the old Parliamentary method of discussing the Budget; at least, the past offers no parallel example.

Marshal St. Arnaud, who has been ill for some days, has left Paris; and the general impression was that he would not return in the capacity of Minister at War. Thus, for the first time since December, 1851, the famous War Minister of the *coup d'état* is without actual power. Though daring and unscrupulous, St. Arnaud was in favour of a moderate and pacific foreign policy.

A decree by the Emperor of the French has been issued, appointing the opening of the Exhibition of Industry of all Nations for the 1st of May, 1855, and directing its close in the September following. The postponement is made for the purpose of giving the Exhibition a more worldwide character.

Extensive preparations are making for the Imperial coronation, which will take place on the 10th of May. The cathedral of Notre Dame will be in the hands of the architects after Easter Sunday.

On the 10th inst., the Emperor entertained Lord Stratford de Redcliffe and several of our countrymen at dinner, at the palace of the Tuilleries. The Emperor had a long private interview with Lord Stratford, who is on his way to resume his duties as British Ambassador at Constantinople. It was remarked that Lord Cowley, the British Ambassador, was not invited.

The Marquis de Valdegamas, the Ambassador of Spain, presented on Monday to the Emperor the insignia of the Royal Order of Noble Ladies of Marie Louise, which the Queen Isabella has conferred upon the Empress.

AUSTRIA.

Advices from Vienna state that the health of the Emperor is completely restored. His physicians recommend him to make a tour of the Tyrol in the course of the spring. Austria has addressed to England a note on the subject of the refugees. A Cathedral service, at which the Emperor assisted, took place in St. Stephen's Church on Saturday. His Majesty, who looked pale and worn, was rapturously received. At night the city was illuminated. The Emperor has conferred the order of the Iron Crown on Count Leiningen. The ex-Emperor and ex-Empress of Austria have subscribed 20,000 florins towards the building of a church, in commemoration of the preservation of the life of the reigning Emperor. A telegraphic despatch informs us of the death of Marshal Haynau.

ITALY.

The accounts we receive from Italy tell us daily of fresh severities, fresh sentences, fresh executions. The military tribunal sitting in Mantua, which conducts the prosecutions of upwards of two hundred individuals, is sending them away by tens and twenties at a time, either to death or chains. Everything connected with these processes is enveloped in mystery, save the executioner and the gallows. The accused are not allowed counsel for their defence; they are not allowed a public trial; they are not brought face to face with the spies, accusers, and witnesses. Men belonging to the upper and most respectable classes of society are judged, condemned, slaughtered, or loaded with chains, and, what would appear incredible, their judges, in stating the reasons for their sentences, are compelled to do ample justice to the morality of many among them.

The Swiss Federal Diet have seriously remonstrated against the expulsion of the Ticinese from Lombardy.

SPAIN.

A letter from Madrid of the 11th informs us that the committee of the Senate, on the demand of Marshal Narvaez to have his case examined by the Senate, has decided against the proposition that he shall have a trial by his Peers, and also against the proposition that the Senate should pass to the order of the day on his claim. The committee has now to decide on the proposition that the Marshal shall be permitted to come to Madrid to take his seat as a senator.

PORTUGAL.

We have accounts from Lisbon to the 12th inst. The news is of considerable importance. The Minister of Finance, M. Fontes, had laid before the Deputies a popular and politic bill to authorise the Government to put down the monopoly of tobacco and soap, and to allow the growth of tobacco at Madeira and other Portuguese islands. The measure will be a great blessing to Portugal, and must ultimately bring down the monopolies of tobacco and soap in Spain.

The answer of the House of Deputies to the Queen's Speech had been carried almost unanimously, and in consequence of its being ascertained that many Peers had resolved upon an opposition to the approval of the dictatorial laws, a batch of twenty new members had been created, many of whom had taken their seats, and some are represented as discreditable selections on the part of the Government.

The Special Committee of Deputies had reported in favour of all the dictatorial decrees since the Saldanha insurrection of 1851; and it appeared unlikely that any of the decrees will be altered until the whole have been legalised, when, it is said, the Government will be disposed to meet the English bondholders in some arrangement to do away with the objectionable principle of the recently-decreed conversion of the Foreign Debt.

TURKEY.

The news from Constantinople under date March 6, is very important. Prince Menschikoff, on a special mission from the Emperor of Russia, arrived at Constantinople on the 28th Feb. On the 2nd March he was received by the Porte. On the 3rd Fend Elendi placed his resignation in the hands of the Sultan, who accepted it on the 6th. He was replaced by Riffat Pasha. A telegraphic despatch states that on the demand of the Grand Vizier, the Chargé d'Affaires of England has sent despatches to Admiral Dundas, commanding the fleet in the Mediterranean, at present at Malta, begging him to come with all convenient speed, and to anchor in the Archipelago.

The Turks have evacuated Montenegro, and the war is at an end. Omer Pasha has retired into Albania, Reis Pasha into Nicsitch, and Dervis Pasha into Kowienne. The Montenegrins claim the final success of the war. They attacked the last-named Turkish General, and entirely routed him with considerable loss.

EGYPT.

The Sublime Porte has issued a decree restoring to the governors of the principal provinces in the Ottoman Empire the arbitrary power of life and death, which is one of the principal clauses of the much-mooted Tazimat question. Consequently, all Abbas Pasha's resistance last year to the attempts of the authorities at Constantinople to deprive him of his rights, and the numerous negotiations that took place in consequence of it, have been of no effect whatever, while large sums of money have been drained from Egypt to satisfy the never-ceasing demands made from Constantinople. The finances of the Sublime Porte are invariably in a most miserable state, and Egypt is always made to supply the most urgent necessities of Constantinople, while, if this country were left to take care of itself, or even were no other demand made than that of the yearly tribute, which is now so regularly paid, its prosperity would be immeasurably greater than it is.

The value of landed property within the walls of Alexandria has increased to an enormous extent, and the rents of houses have within the last year been in many cases doubled. The sons of Ibrahim Pasha, who possess great wealth, are building very extensively; but the demand far exceeds the supply, and new houses are occupied even before they are completed. Abbas Pasha, the Viceroy, is going to remedy this state of things, which presses so heavily upon the residents, and is about to build a very considerable number of houses, and form a new quarter altogether for the accommodation of the European population.

The appointment of the Hon. C. A. Murray, our Consul-General, as Minister Plenipotentiary in Switzerland, will be detrimental to British interests in Egypt, as his knowledge of both Arabic and Turkish had secured to that gentleman great influence with the authorities in the

country. The advantage of direct communication with the Viceroy, without the assistance of a dragoman, can only be appreciated by those who know how often the latter mis-translates, either advisedly or from ignorance.

The number of travellers that have visited Egypt this year has been comparatively small. They have mostly returned from the Cataracts, and are now on their way to Syria by the desert.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

By the *Teviot* we have news from the Cape to the 4th of February. The Governor, accompanied by his staff, had left Graham's Town with an idea of making some arrangements with the friendly chiefs, with a view to the declaration of peace. His Excellency had appointed a board of officers to assemble at Graham's Town, for the purpose of investigating all claims or losses sustained during the war. Information had been sent to the civil commissioners of Uitenhage that the Zouberg was again infested with a body of Kaffirs, supposed to be about 100 in number; the police and the farmers were about to unite in expelling the marauders. The chief Moshesh had recently punished a Basuto captain, and killed seven of his people, for having plundered some colonial farmers; and Letsi, the son of the Basuto chief, had delivered to the Civil Commissioners of Smithfield a valuable horse, which he stated was found in his father's territory, but supposed to belong to a British officer.

AUSTRALIA.

By the Overland Mail we have remarkably late news from Australia; viz. from Sydney to the 28th December, and from Adelaide to the 10th of January. There was no decline in the yield of the gold-fields, although the diggers were making their way in large bodies to the towns to enjoy the holidays. Notwithstanding the great influx of emigrants, some 80,000 souls, to the colony, the numbers located at the Victoria diggings are still only set down at 100,000. The produce of the gold fields for the last year is estimated at 4,000,000 ounces, worth about £16,000,000 sterling! The aggregate export from Sydney had been about 1,100,000 ounces, but much of this had come from Port Phillip. The harvest in New South Wales was everywhere highly abundant, the only want being that of hands to reap it. The price of best flour, however, kept up to £25 per ton.

The *Great Britain* left Sydney on her homeward passage on the 20th December, taking 24,176 ounces of gold from thence. She was expected to sail from Melbourne on the 3rd of January for Liverpool, and would probably ship 150,000 ounces of gold there.

The *Melbourne Argus* says:—

Mount Alexander, Ballarat, and the Ovens are now being advantageously worked. The astonishing richness of Mount Alexander is evidenced in the large amounts which it yields, notwithstanding the immense quantities that have already been drawn from it. The whole country thereabouts appears to be more or less auriferous. Ballarat diggings are again rising into favour, and their productiveness is being more fully developed. The gold at Ballarat is more unequally distributed than at Mount Alexander, and therefore the proportion of successful to unsuccessful diggers is not so great as at the latter place. But then the individual gains are in some cases greater. The labour is more severe, also, than at the Mount, as the gold lies deeper, and more numerous trials have to be made before the deposits are struck upon. There is no doubt that Ballarat will continue to give out considerable quantities for a long time to come, and will be a resort for many diggers who have failed at the Mount. The capabilities of the Ovens, as a very rich field, may now be deemed an admitted fact. The amount brought into Melbourne as yet has been comparatively small, but it is known that large quantities have been carried privately overland to Sydney, and all reports agree in attesting the richness of the locality. The Sydney papers state, for instance, that a gold buyer in that city lately purchased 600 ounces in one lot, from two men who had just come down from the Ovens.

The intelligence from Australia is altogether as important as it is cheering. An announcement that will give great satisfaction, is that of the abundant wool crop, which has been secured, throughout the colonies, in a good condition, without extraordinary expense.

The irritation of the inhabitants of Van Diemen's Land on the subject of transportation, had risen to such a height that the legislature had threatened to stop the supplies.

A letter from Melbourne says:—

The bay is crowded with shipping, and contains at this time, as I was assured by a captain of one of them, some of the finest ships to be found in any harbour in the world. The number of emigrants and the quantity of merchandise weekly poured into this place from the vessels which arrive daily are truly wonderful. As yet, there seems no excess of the one over the other. Goods fetch remunerating prices, and the vast multitude, in some way or other, find the means of living. House-rents continue high. Butter is 8s. per lb.; and as to vegetables and fruit, the prices are almost prohibitory.

The mail steamer *Sydney* arrived at Plymouth on Wednesday. Her dates have been anticipated overland. She brings 175,790 ounces of gold on freight. The new diggings at the Ovens seem the great centre of attraction; and many instances are recorded of parties making their four or five lbs. daily there. Fresh discoveries were continually being made in the locality—each one superior to the other; and these gold-fields seem unlimited. They are fully expected to exceed in richness and extent those about Mount Alexander. The last escort to Port Phillip brought in from the Ovens 17,000 ounces. Spring and Reid's Creek diggings were the favourite ones; gold of a very fine description being found there in abundance. Gold of a coarser description had been found in the Buffalo Range, about twelve miles from the Ovens.

SOUTH AMERICA.

By the *Teviot* steamer we have letters from Buenos Ayres, dated Feb. 2. Civil war was still raging. The besieging army was outside the walls, and several skirmishes had taken place, with some loss of life. The city had been well fortified, and there were at least 50,000 stand of arms, loaded and primed, ready for immediate action.

Urquiza, the pseudo-Liberator, is the mainspring of the rebellion. Rosas y Belgrano, who was marching to the relief of the city, sustained a reverse, and is in the hands of the enemy.

Her Britannic Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires to the Argentine Confederation, the Hon. R. Gore, had been ordered to leave that province. The order was communicated to him through Mr. Hood, the British Consul; the plea being that his presence endangered the public tranquillity.

From Rio Janeiro we hear of the lamented death of Mr. Henry Southern, the British Minister at the Court of Brazil. He died from yellow fever, on Jan. 29.

CHINA.

Accounts from China state that the rebellion was making decided progress. The rebels were close to Han Kow Chiu, on the Yantsekiang, one of the largest marts for trade in the Empire, whilst the Canton accounts state that a great part of the city had been destroyed by fire, and was in possession of the rebels. Their object was to advance and capture Nankin, about 650 miles distant from Han Kow Chiu. Other towns are said to have fallen to the rebels, and considerable quantities of military stores to have been captured by them. It is stated that the Imperial treasury is empty, and large contributions are exacted from all the provinces.

UNITED STATES.

INAUGURATION ADDRESS OF THE NEW PRESIDENT.

The *Arctic* steamer has brought us advices from New York to the 5th inst.; and the Inauguration Speech of the new President, General Pierce, on the 4th inst.

The excitement in Washington on the 4th was excessive. So great was the anxiety to witness General Pierce's inauguration as President, that, on the previous night, hundreds of persons, including ladies, slept in the Rotunda of the Capitol, while thousands walked the streets, determined to be sufficiently early, or unable to obtain accommodation in the hotels.

Shortly before one o'clock, General Pierce took his seat in a carriage, and was escorted by a procession to the Senate House, which was reached at one o'clock. The President elect stood erect in the carriage, with President Fillmore by his side, surrounded by Marshals, and bowed to constant cheers and waving handkerchiefs from the windows. The foreign Ministers followed in carriages. The proceedings were rather marred by a heavy fall of snow. At a quarter past one o'clock the Marshal of the district, with the Judges of the Supreme Court, followed by the President and President elect, and the entire assemblage in the Senate, started in procession to the eastern front of the Capitol, where an immense staging was erected sufficiently large to accommodate all. At half-past one o'clock, all being arranged, the oath of office was administered to General Pierce by the Chief Justice, as follows:—

I do solemnly affirm that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States, and will, to the best of my ability, preserve, protect, and defend the constitution of the United States.

General Pierce in taking the oath did not, as had been ordinarily the custom, say "I solemnly swear," but "I solemnly affirm;" and, instead of kissing the book in Southern fashion, he raised his right hand and

held it in that position until the pledge was read. "Immediately before the address," says a describer of the scene—

When General Pierce took the oath, with head uncovered, and raising one hand to heaven, while he laid the other on the Holy Book, the spectators also uncovered, even in the snow that was falling at that time, and many of them lifted up their hands as if in an act of the most fervent devotion. It was a solemn scene. The address, which the President delivered unflinchingly from memory, and without a single note, was received with great enthusiasm by the vast multitude, particularly those portions of it that asserted the Monroe doctrine, the protection of American citizens abroad, the firm adherence of the President to the compromise measures, and his determination to carry out the Fugitive Slave Law. Cries of "Good, good," and other warm expressions of admiration, were elicited from the crowd. The sentiments, the tone of the address, the earnest manner in which it was spoken; his beautiful action; his manly, erect appearance; his pale cast of countenance, in which intellect and courage were the predominating features; and his clear, loud voice, distinctly heard by the remotest of his audience, all combined to make a deep impression in favour of General Pierce; and many asserted that this was the best inaugural address ever delivered from that spot. He is undoubtedly a very effective speaker.

After the conclusion of the usual formalities President Pierce stepped to the front of the platform, and, amid enthusiastic cheers, proceeded to deliver the Inaugural Address, of which we give the more important portions. His opening sentence contained a brief but touching allusion to the afflicting domestic calamity which he has so recently sustained:—

My countrymen,—It is a relief to feel that no heart but my own can know the personal regret and bitter sorrow over which I have been borne to a position so suitable for others rather than desirable for myself.

Whether the elements of inherent force in the Republic have kept pace with its unparalleled progression in territory, population, and wealth, had been the subject of earnest thought and discussion on both sides of the ocean—

The actual working of our system has, however, dispelled a degree of solicitude which at the outset disturbed bold hearts and far-reaching intellects. The apprehension of dangers from extended territory, multiplied States, accumulated wealth, and augmented population, has proved to be unfounded. The stars upon your banner have become nearly threefold their original number, your densely populated possessions skirt the shores of the two great oceans, and yet this vast increase of people and territory has not only shown itself compatible with the harmonious action of the States and the Federal Government in their respective constitutional spheres, but has afforded an additional guarantee of the strength and integrity of both.

Then follows a somewhat startling declaration that his Administration will not be controlled by any timid forebodings of evil from expansion:—

With an experience thus suggestive and cheering, the policy of my Administration will not be controlled by any timid forebodings of evil from expansion. Indeed, it is not to be disguised that our attitude as a nation, and our position on the globe, render the acquisition of certain possessions, not within our jurisdiction, eminently important for our protection, if not, in the future, essential for the preservation of the rights of commerce and the peace of the world. Should they be obtained, it will be through no grasping spirit, but with a view to obvious national interest and security, and in a manner entirely consistent with the strictest observance of national faith. We have nothing in our history or position to invite aggression; we have everything to beckon us to the cultivation of relations of peace and amity with all nations. Purposes, therefore, at once just and pacific, will be significantly marked in the conduct of our foreign affairs. A sound and comprehensive policy should embrace not less the distant future than the urgent present.

After announcing a policy which must change the position of the United States in relation to the other States of the world, General Pierce proceeds to express his sympathies in favour of peace and commerce:—

The great objects of our pursuit, as a people, are best to be attained by peace, and are entirely consistent with the tranquillity and interests of the rest of mankind. With the neighbouring nations upon our continent we should cultivate kindly and fraternal relations. We can desire nothing in regard to them so much as to see them consolidate their strength and pursue the paths of prosperity and happiness. If in the course of their growth we should open new channels of trade and create additional facilities for friendly intercourse, the benefits realised will be equal and mutual. Of the complicated European systems of national policy we have heretofore been independent. From their wars, their tumults, and anxieties, we have been, happily, almost entirely exempt. While these are confined to the nations which gave them existence, and within their legitimate jurisdiction, they cannot affect us, except as they appeal to our sympathies in the cause of human freedom and universal advancement. But the vast interests of commerce are common to all mankind, and the advantages of trade and international intercourse must always present a noble field for the moral influence of a great people.

The paragraph which follows relative to the protection of American citizens abroad, was the occasion of a little incident which showed how admirably it was adapted for his audience. The President turned face to face with Mr. Fillmore and the diplomatic corps, and laid down the law with thrilling emphasis, and when he again turned to the mass of the people in front, occupying the vast square below, they shouted with delight, and every man of the 50,000 in the streets declared that "Pierce is the man for the times."

With these views firmly and honestly carried out, we have a right to expect, and shall under all circumstances require prompt reciprocity. The rights which belong to us as a nation are not alone to be regarded, but those which pertain to every citizen in his individual capacity, at home and abroad, must be sacredly maintained. So long as he can discern every star in its place upon that ensign, without wealth to purchase for him preferment or title to secure for him place, it will be his privilege, and must be his acknowledged right, to stand unabashed even in the presence of princes, with a proud consciousness that he is himself one of a nation of sovereigns, and that he cannot, in legitimate pursuit, wander so far from home that the agent whom he shall leave behind in the place which I now occupy will not see that no rude hand of power or tyrannical passion is laid upon him with impunity. He must realise that, upon every sea and on every soil where our enterprise may rightfully seek the protection of our flag, American citizenship is an inviolable panoply for the security of American rights. And in this connexion it can hardly be necessary to re-affirm a principle which should now be regarded as fundamental. The rights, security, and repose of this Confederacy reject the idea of interference or colonisation on this side of the ocean by any foreign Power, beyond present jurisdiction, as utterly inadmissible.

The subject of slavery in the United States has now so engrossing an interest for the people of Europe, that every section of the community will require to know the sentiments of the new President hereupon. General Pierce upholds the Slave-Fugitive Compromise Bill.

I believe that involuntary servitude, as it exists in different States of this confederacy, is recognised by the constitution. I believe that it stands like any other admitted right, and that the States wherein it exists are entitled to efficient remedies to enforce the constitutional provisions. I hold that the laws of 1850, commonly called the compromise measures, are strictly constitutional, and to be unhesitatingly carried into effect. I believe that the constituted authorities of this Republic are bound to regard the rights of the South in this respect as they would view any other legal and constitutional right; and that the laws to enforce them should be respected and obeyed, not with a reluctance encouraged by abstract opinions as to their propriety in a different state of society, but cheerfully, and according to the decisions of the tribunal to which their exposition belongs. Such have been and are my convictions, and upon them I shall act. I fervently hope that the question is at rest, and that no sectional, or ambitious, or fanatical excitement may again threaten the durability of our institutions, or obscure the light of our prosperity.

The President concluded his Address as follows:—

Standing, as I do, almost within view of the green slopes of Monticello, and, as it were, within reach of the tomb of Washington, with all the cherished memories of the past gathering around me, like so many eloquent voices of exhortation from Heaven, I can express no better hope for my country than that the kind Providence which smiled upon our fathers may enable their children to preserve the blessings they have inherited.

Great cheering and firing of cannon succeeded the Address. On the conclusion of the ceremonies, the President was escorted to the White House, where he held a kind of levee. The proceedings of the day closed with a private dinner at the White House. Ex-President Fillmore quietly returned to the apartments in the hotel where President Pierce had resided.

The following are the conjectures of the American press as to the personnel of General Pierce's Cabinet:—Governor Marcy, of New York, the State Department, equivalent to the portfolio for Foreign Affairs; James Guthrie, of Kentucky, Secretary of the Treasury; Jefferson Davis, of Mississippi, Secretary of War; Mr. Dobbin, of North Carolina, Secretary of the Navy; Governor McClelland, of Michigan, Secretary of the Interior; Judge Campbell, of Pennsylvania, Postmaster-General; and Caleb Cushing, of Massachusetts, Attorney-General.

The Canada Reciprocity and Copyright Bills will probably not become law this session.

The Secretary of the Navy has written to the Navy Committee of the

House of Representatives, recommending the building of a Government frigate of 2000 tons, propelled by the *Ericsson* calorific engine, and asking Congress to make an appropriation of half a million of dollars for that purpose.

Congress had voted an appropriation of 150,000 dols. for the purpose of surveying and exploring a railway route to the Pacific—survey and report to be laid before Congress as soon as possible.

WASHINGTON DURING THE INAUGURATION.

(From our own Correspondent.)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28th, 1853.

The levees at the presidential mansion take place every Friday evening. That of last week, being the concluding one of the season, and of the Whig President, Fillmore, was most numerous attended. It seemed as if all Washington had given itself the rendezvous at the White House. Whigs and Democrats, Abolitionists and Slavery-men, Unionists and Secessionists, were there assembled for the last time around the peace-loving chief of the nation, before his retirement from office. The man, I must say, is worthy of every tribute of respect, for one better or more prudent never held that distinguished station; and whatever his failings—and who has them not?—they are lost behind the fact that he has helped to steer the ship of State, through a period of a most exciting and menacing character, with a conscientious steadiness that has gained for him the esteem of all parties. The crowd was immense, and the building anything but adequate to the reception of the multitude which continued to throng there until a late hour of the night. The arrangements were none of the best. I was much amused by the appearance of an old woman, evidently just from her stall at the market-house. She had come early for a good "sight" of the President and the company, and had taken possession of a comfortable arm-chair, from which she viewed her fellow-citizens with an amount of calm assurance as great as if she had been a Dowager Duchess in velvet and diamonds. Another citizen, evidently from the country, had come to see the President, and nothing but the President. He slid quietly into the room, in his rude dress and thick shoes covered with dirt, and, stationing himself against the wall, took such a look at the great chief of the nation, that one might have supposed the poor fellow mesmerised with astonishment and respect.

On Saturday evening Thackeray gave his last lecture at Carusi's Saloon. The President and the new President were there together, and clearly on the most friendly terms. Both are worthy men, who allow not party considerations to interfere with that gentlemanly conduct which is due to each. Van Buren, I understand, was an exception to this rule, and treated his successful rival, General Harrison, with rudeness and a display of animosity. Such meanness is rare. Thackeray is much liked: there are, of course, detractors. Some complain of his manner with his audience—keeping them completely in his hand, as it were, and not allowing them that independence which they display with their own lecturers. At the slightest noise, or at the entrance of strangers, Thackeray stops, shows impatience, and persists in controlling and governing his hearers.

The Cabinet is understood to be definitively made up. It will be Conservative. The Young American party, with its revolutionary inclinations, is quite put on one side. For this it has to thank the editor of the *Democratic Review*, who has completely mistaken his compatriots. The city is now exceedingly full of strangers, most of them office-seekers. I have heard of at least a dozen who have come up from various parts of the Union, determined to have the office of Postmaster at San Francisco: it is worth about 20,000 dollars. The present man resigns, to avoid being turned out: he knows the post is too valuable to hold any longer. I pity the Government the indignant enemies it must make of the hosts of Democrats who must necessarily be disappointed. But what can it do? Men, at all times sufficiently positive as to their own merits, are here not a jot behind the rest of the world in that respect. They will have to return home, and prepare the ground for a better move next Presidential election.

Congress sits no longer than the 3rd of March, breaking up at twelve o'clock at night, after a species of orgie not very creditable to the united wisdom of the country. On some occasions, I am told, most of the members are too drunk to attend to business. Bills are passed through by a few knowing ones, and the business of the nation then becomes more glaringly a part of the interest of private individuals.

The new President, Pierce, is expected here to-day. The inauguration takes place on the 4th of March, and is always accompanied by much ceremony and crowding. The multitude of people collecting in Washington, both for the event itself, or for the purpose of getting into place, is quite extraordinary. Already, houses used only for stowing goods, are being prepared for the reception of visitors. That is to say, beds are being put up in them, side by side, as in a hospital, for their accommodation. Everywhere the crowd will be packed into close quarters. Small rooms in boarding-houses will be made to accommodate 6, 8, or 10 men; and if we may judge by the crowd at the last inauguration, many will have to sleep, despite the cold weather, in the market-house. It is a glorious time for making money. As much as eight dollars a day are asked for a room having a view on the Avenue; and that even though engaged three weeks previous to the event.

Office-seekers are pestering the new President unmercifully. I don't believe anything can equal the annoyances which a man must put up with in this country, if in power. Every man argues that he has a right to office, no matter what his incapacity—and no man hesitates to offer himself with all due assurance. They are bred to this. The plague is growing more unbearable with the increase of population; and when perhaps a few more Presidents and great men have been bothered and handed to death by their expectant supporters from all parts of the Union, they may hit upon some rational system of distributing patronage and favours more honest and democratic than the disgraceful scramble that characterises here every change.

L.

(From another Correspondent.)

WASHINGTON, U.S., Feb. 28th.

Washington is at present attracting almost as vast a political pilgrimage to witness the Presidential inauguration as ever rushed to receive the Papal benediction on a jubilee year. Not every fifty years, but in quadrennial recurrence, does this national progress take place towards the congressional shrine. The hotels are literally besieged by bands which successive trains bring in to this congressional centre, which seems to vouch for the unlimited capacities of this little town's hospitality.

Willard's City Hotel, especially, is besieged by eager embryo cabinet members, or minor post-hunters. The stars and stripes which overshadow the hotel front attest the presence of the President elect, who has taken up temporary quarters here till the "White House," which is discernible at a distance, becomes vacant. In one brief week hence the two potentates will have exchanged the roofs which now shelter them. It is touching, meanwhile, to witness the kindly amenity and courtesy interchanged between the twin heads of the State, who, as they go about arm in arm, strike one as the monster valves of Capt. Ericsson's new ship, the one rising as surely as the other goes down at the stern will of the popular crank. At least, so it struck one's fancy, as both these magnates, with a gallant company of guests, invited by Mr. Kennedy, the Secretary of the Navy, steamed down the Potomac a few days since, in the little *Water Witch*, till they reached the *Ericsson* ship itself, anchored abreast of the lowly port of Alexandria, some five or odd miles down the river. Leaving scientific men to expatiate on the simplicity of the invention and the mode in which it has been carried out, and which, like all good things else makes one rather wonder this brilliant motor was not sooner discovered, the company (amongst whom we noticed the town's guests, Thackeray and Irving) dispersed, whilst the navy-yard guns were firing a stunning parting salute, and frightening sundry covets of canvass-back ducks from their haunts on the bank-side.

Though the cannon's boom could hardly reach the walls of Congress, thickly encased with marble, a non-conductor of sound, if we mistake not, yet the propriety of adopting Captain Ericsson's new propelling invention in connection with the State navy, has been actively canvassed a few days since. We heard the question ably propounded by Mr. E. C. Marshall, of California, whose main argument was, that refitting "old bottoms" was ultimately more costly than manufacturing new and efficient vessels. Mr. Kennedy, the able secretary of the out-going Government, has recommended the immediate construction of two new frigates on the "Caloric-engine" model. Here is good news for our dockyard commanders, who have another chance of once more demolishing and re-constructing a whole navy!

Political agitation, however, has its own way; Thackeray has been giving his lectures to audiences, if not as numerous, yet as admiring, intellectual, and brilliant as graced his discourses at Willard's Rooms.



THE MENURA ALBERTI, FROM RICHMOND RIVER, AUSTRALIA.

NEST OF THE MENURA ALBERTI.

At the meeting of the Zoological Society, held on Tuesday evening, the 8th inst., Mr. Gould brought before the notice of the members present a Nest and Egg of the *Menura Alberti*, which had been forwarded to him by Mr. James Wilcox, of Sydney. Mr. Gould remarked upon the extreme interest which attached to those objects, tending as they do to clear up most satisfactorily the position this bird should hold in the scientific arrangements of ornithology. By most previous writers, it had been placed among the *Gallinacea*, a group of birds scarcely any member of which constructs a nest, and the young of which are in possession of the powers of running and feeding immediately after their exclusion from the egg; while, as is now known, the *Menura* constructs a large oven-shaped nest, which, in its materials and in its form, more nearly assimilate to those of the common wren and its allies, than to those of any other known group of birds; and the young, so far from being endowed with the powers of motion, and procuring their own food on their exclusion from the egg, are unable to leave the nest for some time afterwards—a fact with which Mr. Gould became acquainted by a passage in Mr. Wilcox's letter, in which he mentions that he lately lost, by an accident, a young bird, which had been taken from the nest the moment it was able to leave it; and we may infer that like all other insessorial, or perching birds, which are confined to the nest for some time after being hatched, that they are blind at their birth. Whether the bird lays one or two eggs is somewhat uncertain, at present it would seem to be but one. In size it is about that of a domestic hen, of a very dark olive stone colour, with blotches and specks of a still darker hue. Mr. Wilcox states that the nest was placed on a rocky ledge, about 100 feet above the stream of the Richmond River, so difficult of access as to render its acquisition a task of no ordinary kind; the

entrance of the nest being placed towards the rock. About two years ago Mr. Gould named this fine bird *Menura Alberti*, in honour of his Royal Highness Prince Albert; the original specimens to which the name was applied had been received by him from the brushes of the Richmond River, which, together with the other brushes between the ranges and the coast of the eastern portions of Australia, constitute the natural habitat of the species. The public will be glad to hear that this interesting specimen has been purchased for the British Museum.

WINTER AT THE CALIFORNIAN GOLD MINES.

We are indebted to an English mining engineer in San Francisco for some particulars of the sufferings of the miners during the late winter. It is stated that a winter of such extreme severity has not been experienced in California for ten years

and San Francisco was crowded with men who were driven from the mines by the inclemency of the weather and the scarcity of provisions. The snow at the northern mines lay twenty feet deep in some places, and mining was generally suspended throughout the gold fields. The roads became almost impassable, and the result was an alarming scarcity of food in the more remote districts. Provisions became exorbitantly high, and the sufferings of the miners, from the inclemency of the weather and the want of food, were indescribable. Meals of pilot bread only are spoken of as commanding two dollars each in some of the mining districts. It was calculated at San Francisco that two months at least must elapse before provisions could be packed over the mountains, and conveyed into the more distant mining villages. Some frightful deaths from absolute starvation were known to have taken place, and others were considered inevitable.

Our Correspondent forwards us an illustration of a scene upon the mountains. Some miners are returning to their tent or log-hut, with such necessary provisions as the distant town could supply. Their mule had died from exhaustion and fatigue. This was a circumstance of daily occurrence, compelling the men to carry the provisions on their backs over the mountains covered with snow, which in the drifts nearly overwhelmed them. In some known cases, lives were lost by the unhappy miners becoming engulfed in the snow drifts.

While in the northern district mines, snow fell in abundance; rain and floods in the southern mines inundated the plains and valleys. The roads were almost impassable; the streams could not be forded; and several towns were inundated from the unusual swelling of the rivers, on the banks of which they were built. At Churn Creek, 700 miners were compelled to subsist six days upon acorns, being entirely destitute of provisions, and unable to procure them in consequence of high water. At Downes's Ranch, on the north side of Cow Creek, twelve persons were cooped up in a room 7 feet by 9 feet, for eight days; during which time they were obliged to subsist on one scanty meal of beans per diem. O'Neil's Ranch, twenty miles below Tehama, was wholly inundated. Mr. O'Neil, his wife, and three children, were compelled to remain on a beam, under the roof of their house, for two days without food. Mr. Sedora, with his wife and family, floated in a waggon box from their dwelling to a neighbouring island, where they were soon after "treed" by a grisly bear, and obliged to stay in its branches the remainder of the day and succeeding night, without a morsel of sustenance. The farmers have lost thousands of cattle, and many an acre of young wheat would, it was feared, be rendered utterly unproductive. Two hundred waggons were on the road between Sacramento and Jackson, most of which were hopelessly stuck in the mud. When this happens, the driver, in many cases loads his mules with so much of the contents of the waggon as they can carry, and leaves the waggon in the mud hole. Some of the waggon-drivers have perished in the attempt to ford the streams.

The city of Sacramento has had a flood added to the calamitous fire, and many houses which were being rebuilt, with American energy, have been again levelled. Boats there have superseded all other modes of locomotion. At Stockton the flood spread all over the city, bearing away houses and bridges before it. The city looked like a vast lake, in which there floated a fleet of houses at anchor. Nearly every house on the plains was more or less flooded. The prospects of the miners, it was sarcastically said, were excellent, if they did not die of starvation meanwhile.

JOHNSTONE GRAND INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION.

A VERY remarkable sequel of the Great Exhibition in Hyde-park has recently been realised in the small town of Johnstone, in Renfrewshire, in the west of Scotland, distant three miles from Paisley, noted for its shawl manufactures, and ten miles from the mercantile metropolis of Glasgow, in a westerly direction. But Johnstone is just the locality in which the industrial offshoot might be expected to flourish. Seventy years ago Johnstone had no existence as a town; in 1782, the population consisting of only ten persons. It has since grown up into a considerable manufacturing town; and its population (now 6000) exhibits an increase scarcely paralleled in Scottish statistics. Its numerous



NEST OF THE MENURA ALBERTI.

chimney-shafts bespeak the industry of its artisans to the traveller by the Glasgow and South-Western Railway; and its coal-fields, cotton and flax manufactories, foundries, engineering and machine-shops, explain to the visitor the rapid rise of this industrious and enterprising community. Thirty years ago was established here a Mechanics' Institution, to aid the funds of which the directors projected the present Industrial Exhibition.

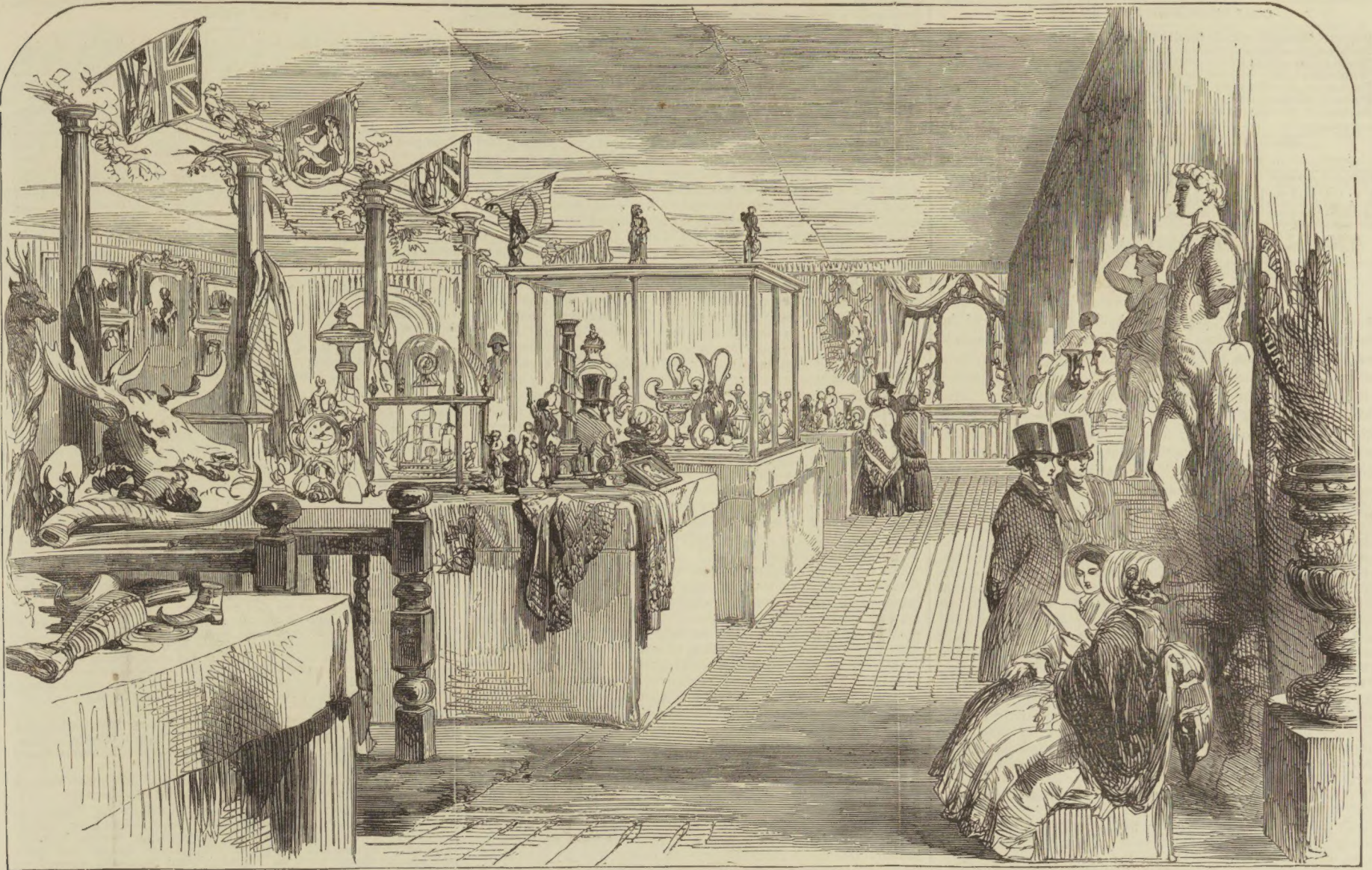
The building was originally intended for a cotton factory, and consists of two spacious flats, or halls. The articles exhibited were machinery, manufactured goods, productions in the fine arts, and curiosities; altogether, 1073 in number. In machinery, as might be expected in a town like Johnstone, the Exhibition was strong. The lower hall was entirely devoted to this department, in which fifty-four specimens were exhibited, in active operation, showing their wonderful powers of adaptation, ingenuity of device, and exquisite workmanship. These machines were moved by a high pressure steam-engine of five-horse power, constructed expressly for the Exhibition by the workmen of Messrs. John M'Dowall and Sons, at their over-time, and presented by them to the directors of the Mechanics' Institution. Upon a long central table were placed working models of the steam-engine of every construction improved gas and water meters; the original model of the first attempt at screw propulsion (1837); hydraulic press, steam-wheels, drying and ventilating machines, &c. Here were also to be seen several models of ships; a large assortment of ornamental pottery, horse-harness, agricultural implements, &c. From the joist of the hall were suspended beautiful papier-maché ornaments.

In the upper hall were exhibited articles of great variety and beauty, including paintings, sculpture, music, plate, furniture, dress, decorative materials, porcelain, ship models; specimens in geology and conchology; curiosities and antiquities, &c. At each end of the apartment was a gigantic mirror; a fine organ, in the flat above, pealed forth its rich harmony; and in the centre of the hall was a fountain of eau de Cologne. Both the upper and lower halls were lighted day and night with gas.

At the time of the Exhibition closing, it had been visited by 30,000 persons; amongst whom were the Lord Provost of Glasgow, William Honstoun, Esq., of Johnstone; Sir Robert Napier, Bart., of Milliken; Captain Stirling, of Glentworth; Colonel M'Dowall, of Canuth; Thomas Spiers, Esq., of Caldees; Major Menton, Ardrossan; Captain Blair, of Blau; the Magistrates of Paisley, and the Magistrates of Kilmarnock. The Directors were complimented by several of the gentlemen, upon the taste and judgment displayed throughout the arrangements; and every one was highly gratified with the success of the Exhibition; the result of which, it is expected, will give stability and efficiency to an institution which may be the means of still more enlightening and elevating the working classes of Johnstone.



WINTER IN CALIFORNIA.



THE JOHNSTONE GRAND INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION.—THE UPPER HALL.—(SEE PRECEDING PAGE.)

DEATH OF M. ORFILA.

WE regret to announce that M. Orfila, the eminent physician, died, in Paris, on Saturday last, after a severe illness, in the 70th year of his age. He was born a Spaniard, at Port Mahon, in Minorca; but was naturalised in France in the early part of the reign of Louis Philippe. In 1805, M. Orfila went to sea in a merchant-vessel, it being intended by his friends that he should enter the naval service; but he had already a strong inclination for the medical profession, and suddenly abandoned the sea, and went to Valencia, to study medicine. Here he greatly distinguished himself, and carried off the first prize in physics and chemistry. A favourable report having been made of his studies to the Junta of Barcelona, that body resolved to send him to Paris, to study the natural sciences; and a sum of 1500 francs per annum was voted to him for that purpose. He arrived in Paris in 1807; and had hardly been there ten months, when war broke out between France and Spain. He was thus deprived of pecuniary resources for continuing his studies; but he had, fortunately, an uncle established at Marseilles, who agreed to provide him with 1500f. per annum, until he should obtain the diploma of Doctor of

that it had been administered during life, has been confirmed by most of the eminent men who have been examined on such questions.

The discovery that arsenic exists in all human bodies, was, however, claimed to have been originally made by M. Couerbe, who also showed that a considerable quantity of arseniate of calcium exists in the bones; and, that the more a body becomes putrid, the more easily is the arsenic extracted from the fleshy and muscular parts. He was one of the physicians who declared that M. Laffarge was not poisoned; and he next adduced the startling fact, which M. Orfila admitted after the trial, that the per-oxide of iron given to M. Laffarge as an antidote to the arsenic he was supposed to have taken, did itself contain arsenic at the time of its being purchased; and that all per-oxide does so, more or less. A *précis* of the joint experiments of MM. Orfila and Couerbe will be found translated from the "Journal de Chimie Médicale," in No. 103 of the "Philosophical Magazine."

During the whole of the reign of Louis Philippe, M. Orfila remained at the head of the Faculty of Medicine; but, after the Revolution of February, 1848, the Provisional Government revoked his functions.

The scientific reputation of M. Orfila commenced with the publication of his "Treatise on Poisons or General Toxicology." The next works published by him, which acquired European reputation, were the "Elements of Legal Medicine," and "Lessons on Legal Medicine," which went through several editions; but he was also the author of many other works of almost equal celebrity. In the course of his researches in the action of poisons, M. Orfila performed numerous experiments with animals, some of which, from the great suffering that they occasioned, induced a belief among persons who were not personally acquainted with him, that his nature was cruel. This, however, was very far from being the case. He was humane and benevolent; and it was with great pain to himself that he was compelled, in order to make science useful to his fellow-creatures, to perform some of these experiments.

Among the more recent investigations of M. Orfila, is his valuable Report to the Academy of Medicine upon Nicotine, in 1851; confirming facts already known, and containing many new observations of interest relative to the properties of the poison, and its traces after death.

It may be interesting to add that M. Orfila was an accomplished musician, and highly celebrated for his exquisite singing.

M. Orfila, in addition to the physical suffering which for a considerable time preceded his death, had also long experienced great mental affliction, caused by the illness of his son, who had become epileptic, and so affected in mind that it was found necessary to place him in a Maison de Santé.

The funeral obsequies for M. Orfila were performed on Monday with great pomp at the church of St. Sulpice. Nearly the whole of the 20th battalion of the National Guard were present, to render military honours to the deceased, as grand officer of the Legion of Honour. The church was crowded, and amongst the congregation were the greater part of the members of the Faculty of Medicine, the Academy of Medicine, and the Academy of Sciences. The eminent men of science never met in greater numbers than on this occasion. Many of the high public functionaries were also present. The cords of the pall were held by MM. Paul Dubois, Bérard, Dubois d'Amiens, and de Bussy. After the religious service, the body was conveyed to the cemetery of Mont Parnasse, followed by an immense line of mourners.

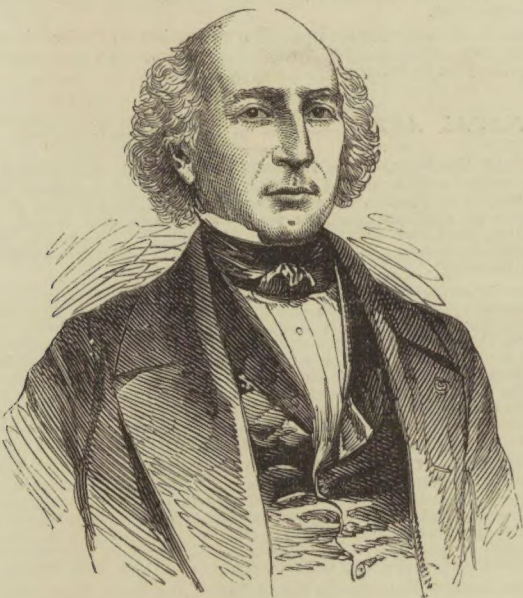
BRONZE STATUE OF THE LATE MARQUIS OF BUTE.

BY J. EVAN THOMAS.

THIS fine colossal Statue of John Crichton Stuart, Marquis of Bute, K.T., is the result of a public subscription raised in Glamorganshire, of which county his Lordship was the Lord-Lieutenant. The Statue is about to be erected on a pedestal of Aberdeen granite, in the town of Cardiff, in testimony of his Lordship's high and distinguished character, and the unwearied zeal with which his exertions were employed in the

last moment of his life to promote the interests and trade of Cardiff, by largely adding to his great and magnificent work, which bears his name, "The Bute Docks."

This Statue is the work of Mr. J. Evan Thomas, of Belgrave-place. It represents the Marquis dressed in his Peer's robes, and standing in a dignified and unaffected attitude, as if addressing a public assembly. The effect is highly agreeable; and the likeness we believe to be indisputable.

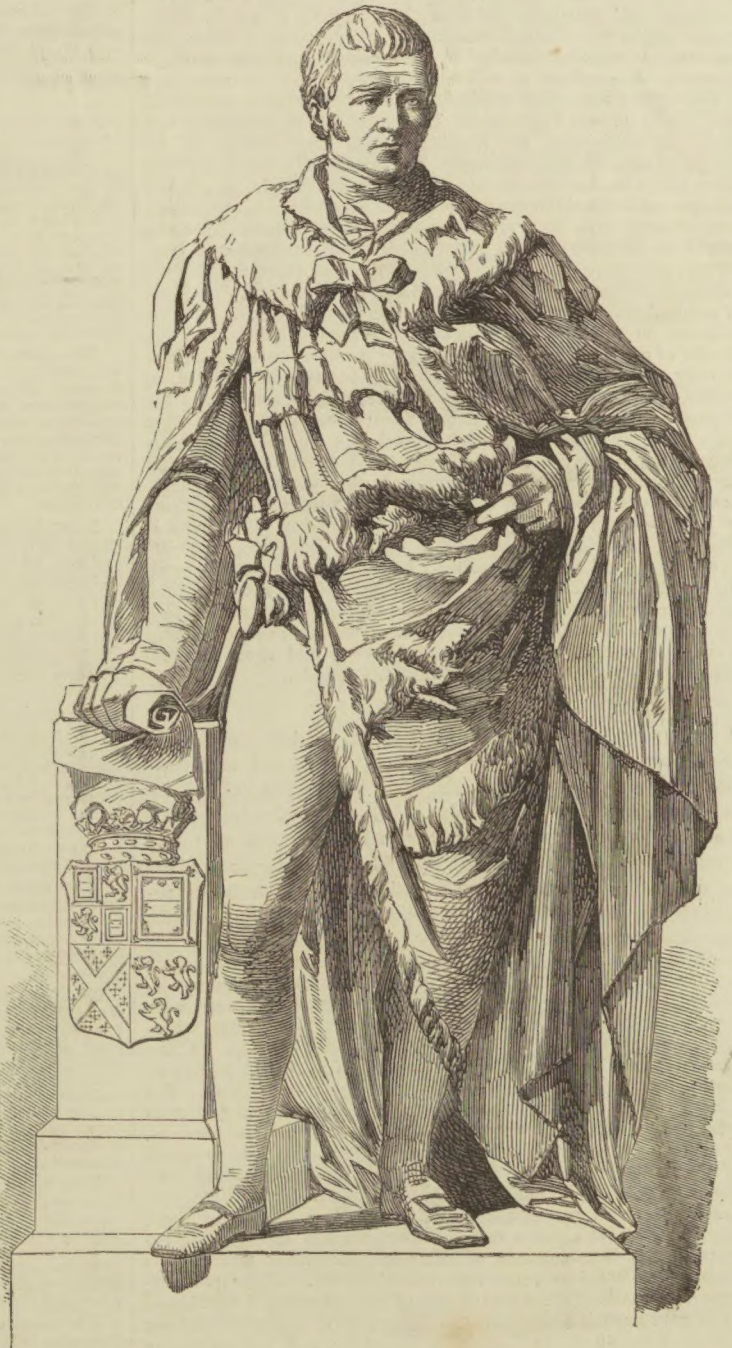


THE LATE M. ORFILA.

Medicine, when his uncle's pecuniary provision was to cease. M. Orfila passed a brilliant examination, and obtained his diploma. Having no longer any funds at his command, he opened a course of lectures in chemistry, which was well attended, and furnished him with the means of living. Some of the most eminent men of the present day were among his pupils; of whom may be mentioned M. Jules Cloquet, M. Beclard, sen., and M. Edwards. The reputation of M. Orfila continued to increase, and in 1816 he was appointed one of the physicians of Louis XVIII. He was next elected a Professor of the Faculty of Legal Medicine, and in 1823 he was chosen to fill the chair of Chemistry. He had already been elected a member of the Academy of Medicine. The Revolution of 1830 opened to M. Orfila a new era of distinction. He was successively elected Dean of the Faculty, member of the Council-general of Hospitals, and member of the Council-general of the department. After he had received his letters of naturalisation, he was appointed a member of the Council of Public Instruction, and was successively named chevalier and officer and commander of the Legion of Honour.

Most of our readers are aware of the importance attached to the opinions of M. Orfila in cases of legal medicine. In cases of poisoning, where much depended on the medical evidence, he was invariably called upon by the Courts of Assize.

During the evidence given in the trial in 1840, of Madame Laffarge, for poisoning her husband, M. Raspail, who was opposed to M. Orfila, disputed with great energy most of his statements, but without effect; and subsequently the opinion expressed by M. Orfila, in opposition to that of M. Raspail, as to the absorption of poisons by the human body after interment, by contact with the earth, to such an extent as to reveal the presence of a quantity which would lead to a supposition



BRONZE STATUE OF THE LATE MARQUIS OF BUTE.—BY J. EVAN THOMAS.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK.

SUNDAY, March 20.—Sixth Sunday in Lent. Palm Sunday.
MONDAY, 21.—Duc d'Enghien shot, 1804.
TUESDAY, 22.—First Protestant Charity-school opened in England, 1688.
WEDNESDAY, 23.—Southwark-bridge opened, 1819.
THURSDAY, 24.—Maundy Thursday. Earl of Chesterfield died, 1773.
FRIDAY, 25.—Good Friday. Lady-day.
SATURDAY, 26.—George Duke of Cambridge born, 1819.

HIGH WATER AT LONDON-BRIDGE,
FOR THE WEEK ENDING MARCH 26.

Sunday.	Monday.	Tuesday.	Wednesday.	Thursday.	Friday.	Saturday.
h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m
9 30	10 15	11 0	11 40	Tide	0 15	0 41
					1 5	1 23
					1 50	2 10
					2 30	3 20
					3 50	4 5

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.

LONDON, SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 1853.

At length, thanks to Mr. Fitzroy, we have a near prospect of the introduction into our criminal law of a much-needed and long-called-for reform. For years and years the journals and the public have been protesting against the perfectly insufficient powers granted to magistrates for the punishment of brutal assault cases. Men who had beaten their wives almost to death's door—who had been within an ace of committing murder—got off with a couple of pounds fine, or two months' imprisonment. This result was inevitable. It was stern, unalterable law. Perhaps one additional blow would have changed two months of the treadmill to transportation for life, or even to capital punishment. But the blow had not been struck, and the ruffian at the bar, who had advanced to the very edge of murder, escapes with the immunity of one hundred shillings. As to sending to the sessions cases of the kind—particularly where, as often happens, the person maltreated is a near relation of the offender—every magistrate is well aware that he might as well dismiss the whole matter at once. The wife, or the child, or whoever may be the prosecutor, will in the interval be worked upon; perhaps bribed; somehow or other, at all events, kept out of the way; or induced, when before a jury, to tell a perfectly different story from that which appears in the depositions of the police-court. The fact is, that the sharp anguish and the keen sense of injury first experienced have worn away. As the gashes have healed and the bruises disappeared, so have old recollections of better days, and a returning sense of attachment sprung up again; and neither judge, jury, nor counsel can extract truth from the weak, and pale, but determined woman who stands before them.

The importance of summary conviction is thus made abundantly evident; and Mr. Fitzroy's Bill proposes to give the magistrate power either to impose a fine of £20, or to send the offender to prison for six months—a proposition which cannot be, at all events, objected to on the score of over-severity. Mr. Phinn, in seconding the motion, hinted that "the judicious application of corporal punishment would be the best check." But Mr. Phinn forgets that public opinion would go strongly and justly against literally returning blow for blow. The effect of stripes has always been found to degrade a man even below a previously wretched condition of debasement, besides producing a feeling of desperate and hopeless recklessness, which is but too likely to lead to fatal effects in regard to himself or others. Mr. Fitzroy's bill, as he has introduced it, will, we have no doubt, go a great way to check brutal violence, especially in the cases of those drunken, dissolute, idle people who live upon their wives' earnings—and who form the class by members of which, nine-tenths of the most brutal assaults are perpetrated. Short imprisonments are little dreaded by these people, but long confinements are their horror.

We cannot leave this subject without bestowing a couple of words on a popular Continental delusion widely disseminated and firmly believed—that the English are a very brutal set of people—that English husbands are continually beating their wives; and in fact that we are all, as a general rule, singularly addicted to the amiable practices of striking, kicking, scratching, and committing all sorts of ruffianism upon each other. Now, the source of all these very mistaken and somewhat calumnious ideas, we take to be our own passion for police reports, and for devouring the narrative of every case of savage violence which occurs. The result of our national taste for this delicate species of literature is, that columns on columns of our journals are daily filled with the details of assaults and outrages of every possible character, industriously gathered by the indefatigable penny-a-liners, and, of course, set off with every possible garnish, to give every case the highest practicable flavour. Now, when these reports—pouring daily forth by scores—are read abroad, the natural inference is drawn, that we are a mere set of savages, constantly belabouring each other, and recording our exploits in this way in our journals, as if they were something to be proud of. The fact is, that there is just as much fighting, beating, sabot-kicking, and, what is worse, knife-cutting, in the lower quarters of Paris, as exists in the courts and alleys of London; and the same is the case in all the great Continental cities. There, as well as here, passion, drink, and jealousy do their work; only, on the Continent, the journals do not blazon their countrymen's shortcomings; they prudently leave these matters to the police; and we would show our discretion and our taste if we followed their example.

A QUESTION, of which the English public has until lately heard but little, is rearing itself into the social and commercial atmosphere, and bidding fair to become one of the engrossing subjects of the day. Good people in general used instinctively to consider Custom-house abuses as things pretty sure to be connected with squabbles about carpet-bags detained at Folkestone, or French editions of English books peremptorily seized in the searching-room at London-bridge. There were few indeed who dreamt that, unseen and unfelt by the world in general, but guiding, in darkness and secrecy, the whole of our Custom-house system, there has for many years existed a despotic body of gentlemen, endowed with powers and privileges which no other Englishmen whatever were entrusted with, and ordinarily known as the Custom-house Board. The growth of the abnormal powers of the institution in question seems to have been slow but sure. For a long time it exercised them cautiously, and without daring to attack the greater merchants or the richer companies of the City. Becoming, however, emboldened, after some successful crushing of the smaller class of traders whose want of capital and social influence rendered even a struggle for justice impossible—the Board attacked the Great Dock Companies, and, happily, met with their match. Our readers cannot but remember the long columns of Custom-house trials which some time ago occupied pages of the daily journals. These proceedings at last roused the whole might of the commercial world, and successive appeals were made to different Governments for a most sweeping reform of the Custom-house system, and a most extensive lopping of Custom-house powers—appeals which at length have had their effect. The present Cabinet took up the case

practically; and on Saturday last a deputation—unprecedented as a gathering of the commercial aristocracy of England, in and out of Parliament, and representing an almost boundless degree of wealth—waited upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer, to present him with a memorial setting forth the views and wishes of the mercantile community.

This memorial, which was read by Mr. Trevor, the chairman of the London committee, is a document to be perused and remembered. It points out the mass of complicated confusion into which the accumulated orders, minutes, and by-laws of the Board have gradually fallen; and it states that under the existing law a merchant's person may be seized, his property sold without a warrant, and without a charge being brought against him, or any opportunity being afforded him of making the slightest personal defence. Practically, the memorial alleges that there is no chance of justice from an appeal to the Commissioners. If the victim resort to them, they refer back to the siezing officer: he repeats his version of the story, and the Board uniformly decide that he is in the right. Nor are the chances of appeal to the Treasury happier ones. The Treasury remits the matter again to the Board; and thus, all through the Custom-house system, the accused becomes his own judge, and virtually pronounces his own verdict of "Not Guilty." "A man," says the memorial, "may be beggared in means and ruined in character; but neither the Customs Commissioners, nor the Lords of the Treasury, will furnish him with a statement of the charges against him, nor allow him to appear personally in his own defence." Many similar details are set forth with similar plainness; and then the memorial proceeds to recite that, though it was understood that the Treasury minute scheme had been given up, and that bills were in preparation, yet that, as it was rumoured that these bills were being drawn up by the Commissioners themselves, drafts of them should, before they were laid before Parliament, be furnished to the mercantile community, for their practical suggestions and amendments.

Mr. Gladstone's reply was re-assuring. He informed his hearers that the Government were perfectly at one with them in the absolute necessity of introducing sweeping changes into the Customs system; but he put it to the deputation whether the most advisable plan would not be to allow the bills in their original state to have a parliamentary introduction, after which, ample time would be allowed for discussion, and the suggestion of improvements out of doors. These suggestions Government would consider, and those they deemed efficient they would embody in amended bills. To this reasonable proposition, there was little demur. The members of Parliament present agreed with the instinct of legislative *esprit de corps*; and the great mercantile firms followed in their train, their representatives expressing their entire confidence in the sincerity of the Government.

It is, however, not only with reference to the anomalous and in practice cruelly-exercised powers of the Board of Customs that the administration of the Custom-house is intended to undergo extensive improvements. It is also proposed most materially to simplify the whole arrangements—to codify into an intelligible form such present rules and by-laws as Parliament may approve of; and generally to remove every possible obstacle to the rapid and facile carrying on of our importing trade.

There can, we should think, arise no difficulty about the matter. Ministers, merchants, and members of Parliament are all agreed upon the necessity of a reform. The members of the Customs Board, whom we are far from blaming personally, are themselves drawing up the bills for the destruction of powers—which, we are sure, they never exercised, save from a stern sense of duty, and from which they will speedily be relieved; while the measures in contemplation are precisely the practical results of that Free-trade, to the full operation of which, opposition and obstacles long banished from the Senate cannot be allowed to lurk in the darkness of an institution, founded, to a great extent, on the false principles of other days, and growing worse as it grew older.

CHURCH, UNIVERSITIES, &c.

PREFERMENTS AND APPOINTMENTS.—The Rev. R. COXE, M.A., to the Archdeaconry of Lindisfarne, with the vicarage of Eglingham annexed, Northumberland. The Rev. W. P. CREYKE, M.A., to be chaplain to the Lord High Commissioner of the Ionian Islands. The Rev. Joseph WOOLLEY, B.D., to be one of her Majesty's preachers at the Chapel Royal, Whitehall. The Rev. C. W. DOHERTY, M.A., to be Domestic Chaplain to the Marquis of Ely. *Rectories*: the Rev. R. SMITH, B.D., to Hope, Kent; the Rev. J. EMPSON, M.A., to Eydon, Northamptonshire; the Rev. T. E. MARSHALL, M.A., to Gringley-on-the-Hill, Bawtry. *Parishes*: The Rev. W. TYDEN, M.A., to Stamford; the Rev. F. J. RICHARDS, M.A., to Boxley, near Maidstone.

RE-OPENING OF BRAMFORD SPOKE CHURCH.—This church, of which the Rev. Mr. GORHAM is the vicar, was re-opened on Thursday week. Upwards of fourteen clergymen were present, and the Rev. F. CLOSE, of Cheltenham, was selected to preach the sermon. The church has been entirely rebuilt, with the exception of the tower, which is left in its original condition. The roof is of open oak, and the high pews have been replaced by neat open seats. Two-thirds of the cost of the restoration were bequeathed by a rich lady of the parish named Tucker, and the remainder is to be made up by subscriptions. The architect was Mr. BUTCHER, of London.

NEW CHURCH, PIMLICO.—The new church of St. Gabriel, situate in Warwick-square, Pimlico, is rapidly approaching completion, and will be ready for consecration next month. The Rev. B. BELCHER, B.A., will be the first incumbent.

CHURCH RESTORATION.—Through the exertion and liberality of the Rev. I. H. GOSSETT, the venerable parish church of Northam, in Devonshire, has undergone partial restoration within the last two years, the expenditure amounting to £2000, and to carry out the vicar's laudable design it would take another £1000.

WOMEN'S ADDRESS ON SLAVERY.—The final meeting of the ladies' committee for the promotion of this address is arranged to be held at Stafford House, when the 24 volumes, containing more than 600,000 signatures, will be laid out for inspection previous to their transmission to America. An extensive movement will speedily be set on foot to raise a considerable sum of money for the purpose of advancing the cause of liberty amongst the coloured race in America. The administration of this fund will be entrusted to Mrs. Beecher Stowe, as a tribute to her well-known exertions on behalf of the slave; and the Earl of Shaftesbury, the Earl of Carlisle, and Mr. Samuel Gurney have agreed to act as trustees.

ELECTION COMMITTEES.—*Southampton*: Sir A. Cockburn and Mr. Willcox are declared duly elected. *Cirencester*: The petition has been withdrawn, and the Hon. Apsley Ponsonby retains his seat. *Huddersfield*: Mr. Stansfield has lost his seat, through the bribery and treating of his agents. *Wigton Burghs*: Sir J. M. Taggart retains his seat, being duly elected.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY.—Thursday being St. Patrick's-day, it was observed in all the Roman Catholic chapels as a solemn festival. In the chapel, Sutton-street, Soho, a solemn high mass was chanted by a full choir, after which Cardinal Wiseman delivered a discourse on the life and acts of St. Patrick. The anniversary meeting of the friends of the Royal Society of St. Patrick was held at the London Tavern, Bishopgate-street, and the customary solicitation for the means of promoting the great object for which the society was established, was made and liberally acceded to. At guard mounting the military bands played principally Irish airs. The colours of the various battalions were decorated with the shamrock.

THE LATE PORTUGUESE PRINCESS.—On Tuesday, a funeral service was celebrated in the Catholic Church of St. James, Spanish-place, Manchester-square, for the repose of the soul of her late Imperial Highness the Princess Marie Amelie, sister of the Emperor of Brazil and of the Queen of Portugal. Invitations were sent by the Brazilian Minister to all the representatives of the Sovereigns who are related by consanguinity or affinity with the august deceased, as well as to all the Portuguese and Brazilians resident in London.

BATTERSEA PARK.—Mr. Thomas Cubitt, the builder, by whom Battersea Park was suggested, offers to take the whole of the land that has been agreed to be purchased off the hands of the Government at the cost price; he will also, if they desire it, take the bridge now erecting at the cost price, with its new approach.

THE COURT.

The week just closed has been full of interesting incident at Court. Her Majesty continues in the enjoyment of excellent health, and has frequently appeared in public. A liberal dispensation of the Royal hospitality, and occasional visits to the theatre, have alternated with each other, and left no day without its agreeable occupation.

On Saturday, her Majesty and the Prince Consort drove to Sydenham, and inspected the works in progress at the New Crystal Palace. Mr. Owen Jones was in attendance, and conducted the illustrious visitors over those portions of the building already completed. In the evening the Queen had a dinner party, the company at which included the Duchess of Kent, the Princess Adelaide of Hohenlohe, the Lord Chancellor and Lady Cranworth, the Austrian Minister and the Countess Colloredo, Lord and Lady Charles Wellesley, Lord and Lady De Ros, Lord and Lady Colborne, Sir James and Lady Graham, and Sir John and Lady Pakington.

On Sunday the Queen and the Prince, with the Prince of Wales, the Princess Royal and the Princess Alice, the Duchess of Kent and the Princess Adelaide of Hohenlohe, and the ladies and gentlemen of the household, attended Divine service in the private chapel of Buckingham Palace.

On Monday her Majesty took walking exercise in the gardens of Buckingham Palace. The Prince Consort, with the Prince of Wales and Prince Alfred, went in the morning to the Bank of England. The Royal party were shown over the various departments of this national establishment by the Chairman of the Board of Directors. In the evening the Queen and the Prince were to have gone to the St. James's Theatre, but her Majesty subsequently changed her determination, and visited the Haymarket Theatre, to witness Mr. Webster's retirement from the management.

On Tuesday the Queen and the Prince Consort paid a visit to the Duchess of Gloucester, at Gloucester House. In the evening her Majesty had a dinner party, the guests at which included the Duchess of Kent, the Duchess of Cambridge and the Princess Mary, the Princess Adelaide of Hohenlohe, the Duke of Wellington, the Marquis of Breadalbane, the Earl and Countess of Eglinton, the Earl of Malmesbury, Viscount and Viscountess Hardinge, Lord and Lady Edward Fitzalan Howard, Lord and Lady Robert Grosvenor, and Sir Charles and Lady Mary Wood.

On Wednesday, the Prince Consort presided at a meeting of the Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851, held at the New Palace of Westminster. In the evening, the Queen and his Royal Highness Prince Albert honoured the performance of the French Plays at the St. James's Theatre with their presence.

On Thursday the Queen gave a dinner party. The company included the Duchess of Kent, the Princess Adelaide of Hohenlohe, the Duke of Norfolk, the Prussian Minister and Madame Bunsen, the Earl and Countess of Derby, the Earl and Countess of Shaftesbury, the Earl and Countess of Roseberg, and the Earl Delawarr.

Lord Camoys has relieved the Marquis of Ormonde in his duties as Lord in Waiting to the Queen; and Major-General Berkeley Drummond has relieved Mr. R. Ormsby Gore as Groom in Waiting to her Majesty.

The departure of the Court for Windsor has been delayed from Thursday last until to-day (Saturday). Under present arrangements, the Queen and the Prince, with the youthful members of the Royal family, leave Buckingham Palace this afternoon for Windsor Castle.

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS the Duchess of Kent, accompanied by the Princess Adelaide of Hohenlohe, visited the Countess of Neully, at Claremont, on Wednesday. The Duchess of Orleans and her youthful family have arrived at Claremont, from Devonshire.

His Excellency the Belgian Minister and Madame Van de Weyer arrived in Portland-place, on Friday night, from Brussels.

THE Duke of Devonshire gave a grand dinner on Tuesday at Devonshire House, to his Excellency the French Ambassador and the Countess Walewska, his Excellency the Austrian Minister and the Countess Colloredo, and a party of distinguished friends. His Grace gave another dinner party on Thursday, when the guests included the Earl of Carlisle, the Earl and Countess Cowper, Viscount and Lady Olivia Ossulton, Lord Ward, &c.

WE regret to learn that the Duchess Dowager of Leeds has been seriously indisposed during the past few days at Hornby Castle. The Duke of Leeds was summoned from London on Friday to attend his afflicted parent. The latest accounts describe her Grace as somewhat better.

THE Earl and Countess of Clarendon entertained a distinguished circle at dinner, on Saturday evening, at their residence in Grosvenor-crescent. The Countess had a reception last evening (Friday), at the Foreign Office, which was very numerous and fashionably attended.

THE Duchess of Argyll gave birth to a son on Friday morning last, at Stafford House. Her Grace and the infant are progressing most favourably. This is the seventh child, and fifth son, of the young Duke of Argyll.

THE Marquis and Marchioness of Ailesbury arrived in Grosvenor-square, on Saturday, from Tottenham Park; his Lordship having so far recovered as to enable him to remove to London.

THE Countess of Aboyne gave birth to a son on Saturday last at Orton Longueville, the family seat in Huntingdonshire.

VISCOUNT and VISCOUNTESS PALMERSTON intend to pass the Easter recess at Broadlands.

VISCOUNT and VISCOUNTESS CASTLEREAGH have left town on a Continental tour.

LORD LONDESBOROUGH has taken a mansion on Carlton-house-terrace. His Lordship, with Lady Lonsborough and their youthful family, are gone to Grimston-park for the recess.

NAVAL AND MILITARY INTELLIGENCE.

INDIAN SERVICE.—The regiments of the line now serving in India are to be filled up from the provisional battalion to the number of 2000 men. The garrison orders of the 14th name the following depôts of corps at Chatham garrison for that service:—For Bengal, the 10th, 18th, 22nd, 24th, 29th, 32nd, 60th, 61st, 70th, 75th, 80th, 87th, 96th, and 98th; for Bombay, the 8th, 64th, 78th, and 86th; and those for Madras, the 25th and 84th.

CONVEYANCE OF HORSE ARTILLERY BY RAILWAY.—An experimental removal of troops and artillery took place on Wednesday morning from the Bricklayers' Arms station of the South-Eastern Railway, for the purpose of ascertaining the time required to load and unload heavy artillery with horses, ammunition, &c., for conveyance by railway. A portion of a battery of the Royal Artillery, with the full complement of men, horses, guns, ammunition, waggon, &c., were loaded in a train at the Bricklayers' Arms station on Wednesday, and there unloaded—all in 2 hours and 38 minutes, 35 minutes of which were occupied in constructing a temporary platform to unload the guns.

HONOUR TO THE BRAVE.—A gratifying scene occurred at the Cavalry Dépôt, Maidstone, last week, when a general parade assembled to witness the presentation of a medal and clasps to the non-commissioned officers and men of the 3rd Light Dragoons who shared in the late Punjab campaign. Colonel Griffiths congratulated the men on the distinguished honour conferred on them, and the garrison sergeant-major performed the pleasing duty of fastening the medals on their breasts.

THE SCREW FLEET.—In the course of the next three months there will be a very strong addition to our fleet of screw line-of-battle ships. The *St. Jean d'Acre*, 101, will be launched at Devonport on the 23rd inst. The *James Watt*, 91, will be launched at Pembroke in the course of next month. The *Royal George*, 120, will be completed at Chatham by the 20th of next month. The *Royal Albert*, 131, at Woolwich; and the *Hannibal*, 91, at Deptford, will be launched about next June.

THE ARCTIC EXPEDITION.—The screw-ship *Phanix*, Commander Inglefield, fitting for the relief of Sir E. Belcher's expedition, will be taken out of dock at Woolwich on the 26th of March, and will be out of the hands of the dockyard by the second week in April. Her complement is 100 officers and men. Of this number she has nearly one half on her books.

THE *Isabel* screw steam-ship is expected to leave Woolwich this day for Behring's Straits, calling only at Vancouver's Island, on her way there. Mr. Kennedy will have the command of the vessel, and Mr. Grate will act as sailing master, and Mr. Bardin as engineer. M. Bellot, the French officer who accompanied Mr. Kennedy in his last voyage, declines (in consequence of a domestic affliction) proceeding to Behring's Straits in the *Isabel*.

THE NEW CRYSTAL PALACE.—On Thursday, a special meeting of this company was held at the London Tavern.—Mr. S. Laing in the chair—when an agreement with the West-end and Crystal Palace Railway Company—whereby the Railway Company are to receive three-sevenths, and the Palace Company four-sevenths, of a price to be fixed for transmission to and from, and admission into, the Palace—was agreed to; the chairman stating the amount fixed upon was 1s. 6d. It was also stated that tickets were shortly to be issued to enable the Company to inspect the works during their progress.

WOOLWICH BATHS AND WASH-HOUSES.—On Wednesday the baths, wash houses, and lecture-hall, erected by a company at a cost of £7000, were sold by public auction, in consequence of the large debt due for their erection. The premises only realised the sum of £2465.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—FRIDAY, MARCH 11.

The affairs of India were again discussed by their Lordships to-night. The Earl of DERBY deprecated permanent legislation for India during the present session, while inquiry was going on, and recommended a continuing act for a period not exceeding five years. The Earl of ABERDEEN, on the other hand, thought sufficient evidence had been taken relative to the government of India to enable their Lordships to legislate during the present session.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—FRIDAY.

India was also the first subject which engaged the attention of the Commons this evening. Mr. BRIGHT strongly complained of the mal-administration of justice in India, and the absence of roads, bridges, and other signs of material improvement. He also laid great stress upon the petitions of the natives for a reform in the Indian Government, and the deficiency in the Indian revenue. Lord J. RUSSELL, in reply, defended the administration of the East India Company; and the discussion terminated without any glimpse having been afforded of the nature of the Government measure or the term of its continuance.

After the presentation of a great number of petitions against the admission of the Jews to Parliament, the House passed to the consideration of the second reading of the Jewish Disabilities Bill; when Sir F. THURSDAY, in a clear and effective speech, led the opposition to the bill by moving that it be read a second time that day six months. The hon. and learned gentleman was followed by Mr. B. OSBORNE, who, in the first speech delivered since his accession to office, showed that his forte rather lies in personal attack than in logical argument. Mr. H. DRUMMOND, in one of those original and amusing speeches which puzzle his friends, and do not greatly damage his opponents, admitted, while he opposed the bill, that there was not one single argument to be brought against the bill upon religious grounds. The Jews, he said, cared not one rush for any Christian community, and would not be at the trouble of supporting any one sect or of pulling down another. The faithful among them were looking forward to the time when they should trample upon the Gentiles like ashes under the soles of their feet. The debate called up Lord J. RUSSELL, who contended that those who condemned the Madial on account of religious faith were only acting upon the principle of those who excluded Jews from Parliament. In conclusion, he said—

It is because I am not indifferent to the triumph of Christianity, but because I believe Christianity will triumph amidst the greatest liberty and the most free diffusion of opinion, that I believe that triumph will be hastened and confirmed by the removal of the last of these disabilities (Much cheering).

The majority in favour of the second reading considerably exceeded that in favour of the introduction of the bill. The numbers were—For the second reading, 263; against it, 212: majority, 51.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—MONDAY.

Lord LYNCHURST drew attention to the revision and consolidation of the statutes, which the Lord Chancellor had stated the Government desired to see carried out. He cited cases to show the carelessness with which Acts of Parliament were framed, and the loose manner in which amendments were made and carried in committee. In one case, where a pecuniary penalty was originally proposed for an offence, fourteen years' transportation was substituted during the progress of the bill through Parliament. But the party who had charge of the bill omitted to strike out the other clause of the bill by which the penalty was to be divided, and the result was that the whole parish became entitled to seven years' transportation, and the other half was to go to the informer.

The LORD CHANCELLOR promised to direct his attention, not only to devising the best manner of consolidating what was past, but a better mode of legislation for the future. He had obtained the services of a few of the most efficient men, and in the first week of April the proposed consolidation should commence. Of thirty-eight quarto volumes of statutes, he believed not above six or seven were in force. He proposed that they should take three or four rather easy subjects, put the enactments into better language and form, and lay the result as a specimen before the House.

After some useful suggestions from Lord St. LEONARDS and Lord BROUGHAM, the subject dropped.

The County Elections Polling Bill (introduced into the House of Commons by Lord R. Grosvenor) was read a first time, after an energetic assurance from the Earl of ABERDEEN that the Government was most anxious to check the present amount of bribery and corruption. The attention of his noble friend (Lord J. Russell) was directed to meet an evil which threatened to bring our whole representative system into contempt.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—MONDAY.

Petitions were presented by Sir H. R. INGLIS from chaplains of a large number of galls in various parts of the country, against the opening of the Crystal Palace on Sundays. The petitioners strongly represented the demoralising effect of a breach of the Lord's Day, which their experience had shown to be one of the most fruitful sources of crime.

The Jewish Disabilities Bill went through committee, and the House adjourned at the unusually early hour of eight o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—TUESDAY.

Lord MALMESBURY called the attention of the Government to the loss of life and limb to passengers by railway. Since he last addressed their Lordships five accidents of the most serious nature had occurred on the South-Eastern, one on the Berwick and Newcastle, one on a branch of the same line, another on the Manchester line, and the fifth on the Bristol and Birmingham. In consequence of these accidents, eleven persons had been at once destroyed, and about forty persons seriously—many of them irretrievably injured. Nor did these accidents arise from casualties and unavoidable accident, but from neglect on the part of the railway authorities, and from want of a presiding system of management and control.

Lord STANLEY of Alderley said that the Government would not hesitate to ask for new powers if required by the public safety. He trusted that the committee of the House of Commons, which would have the assistance of the most scientific men in the country, might suggest some remedy for the evils with which the working of railways was now attended.

The Earl of HARROWBY was of opinion that the greater number of railway accidents arose from two causes chiefly—namely, excessive economy on the part of the company, and excessive speed. If Parliament wished to obtain security it must, in the first place, diminish the speed of the trains, and that could only be done by getting rid of the spirit of competition; and, in order to put an end to competition, they must assign certain districts of the country to certain railway companies.

The Earl of WICKLOW said, their Lordships ought to bear in mind, when speaking of the great number of railway accidents, that the weather had been worse for several months past than was ever previously known in this country. Was it not to be expected that, under such circumstances, excessive injury would be done to the railroads, in like manner as to other descriptions of roads? Another cause, of a more serious nature, might be the deterioration which, from use, the railways themselves had undergone. The wear and tear of those roads was immense, and the companies had not funds enough to put them into that state of repair which they required.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—TUESDAY.

The London and Watford Spring Water Bill was thrown out, after a speech by Lord PALMERSTON, who said that it would not be fair to existing Water Companies to sanction another bill for supplying the metropolis, until it should be seen whether the present companies—who were going to great expense to obtain an improved supply under the bill of last session—had failed to give an abundant supply of good water.

Sir B. HALL said that, after Easter, he should move for leave to bring in a bill to extend the municipal franchise to all ratepayers in the city of London; and to provide that the Lord Mayor should be elected by the votes of all the municipal electors.

Sir De L. EVANS asked the Commissioner of Works—Whether it was his intention to proceed with the bill which was prepared by the late Government for the reconstruction of Westminster-bridge; and, if not, what course was intended to be taken in respect of the ruinous and dangerous state of the present structure?

Sir W. MOLESWORTH admitted that Westminster-bridge was in a very ruinous and almost dangerous condition:—

The late Government came to a determination to pull the bridge down, and to construct another on nearly the same site; and, after much consideration, he had come to the conclusion, that the determination of the late Government, in that respect, was a wise one (A laugh). The exigencies of commerce, and the transit going on in this great metropolis, would pro-

bably, at no distant period, require two additional bridges across the Thames—one in the vicinity of Charing-cross, and another at Lambeth; but it was advisable to rebuild Westminster-bridge on its present site. It was his intention, therefore, to proceed with the bill of the late Government, and he was preparing plans for that purpose. On account of the vicinity of the New Houses of Parliament, the new bridge ought to be low, wide, and at right angles with the New Houses. Operations would be commenced in the course of the present year.

Sir J. GRAHAM, in reference to the second return of the *Australian* steamer into Plymouth, was sorry to say, that the service of the Australian Mail-packet Company, under their contract, was most unsatisfactory. The terms of the contract empowered the Government to inflict penalties for the non-performance of the service stipulated; and both the late and the present Government had not failed to enforce the penalties whenever it appeared equitable to do so.

Mr. K. SEYMER moved an address for a commission to inquire into the state of the borough of Canterbury. As chairman of the Election Committee, he could state that a very large number of electors were bribed by means of colourmen's ticket. He urged that measures should be taken to deprive persons who had thus employed their franchise of a privilege they had abused. Mr. MALINS believed the only remedy was the withholding the franchise from such persons. Mr. DUNCOMBE thought that a better remedy would be an enlargement of the constituency. His only hope was in a new reform bill, and he called upon Sir J. GRAHAM to prevail upon his noble colleague to give a good one. Lord RUSSELL was ready to vote for the motion; while Mr. HUME thought the commission would be a waste of time. The motion was ultimately agreed to.

A debate took place upon a motion, by Mr. WILSON PATTEN, that a new writ be issued for the borough of Blackburn, in the room of Mr. Eccles, unseated for bribery and treating by his agents. Some members thought there ought to be an inquiry by a committee, but ultimately the writ was issued.

A similar discussion followed upon a motion, by Colonel FORESTER, for the issue of a writ for the borough of Bridgnorth. Sir J. SHELLEY contended that this case was in a very different position from the last; that a regular system of coercion, treating, and intimidation had existed in this borough; and that a Select Committee ought to be appointed to inquire. The House, however, appeared to think that there were no special circumstances in the present case to justify the suspension of the writ, which was accordingly directed to issue.

The Aggravated Assaults Bill, which provides a more severe punishment for cruel assaults upon women and children, was read a second time.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—WEDNESDAY.

On the order for the committal of the County Rates and Expenditure Bill,

Sir J. PAKINGTON moved to defer the committee until the 13th of April, to afford time for the courts of quarter sessions to consider the bill.

Mr. M. GIBSON, believing that the county magistracy had had ample opportunities for understanding the scope and character of the measure, resisted this postponement.

The House went into committee on the bill. Upon the 4th clause, enacting that the county financial board, with certain exceptions, shall consist of persons elected by the elected members of the board of guardians and by the guardians of the poor,

Sir J. PAKINGTON moved to include the justices duly qualified to act in each county.

Mr. M. GIBSON declined to assent to this amendment, which would, he said, be fatal to the bill, being inconsistent with the representative principle, upon which it was founded.

A debate took place, and the Chairman was ordered to report progress before a decision had been come to upon the clause.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—THURSDAY.

The following bills were severally read a third time and passed, viz., the County Elections Polls Bill, the Grand Jury Cess (Ireland) Bill, the Indemnity Bill, the Office of Examiner (Court of Chancery) Bill, and the Consolidated Fund Bill. The Slave-trade Bills (Sohar in Arabia and New Granada) were severally passed through Committee.

In reply to Lord St. LEONARDS, the Lord CHANCELLOR said that there were three or four of the most eminent men engaged upon an inquiry on the subject of a general codification or classification of the laws. The present Commission was more for the purpose of ascertaining to what extent it would be wise or practicable to go in respect to this matter. The inquiry, however, was only preliminary.

THE AUSTRALIAN STEAMERS.

Lord WHARFCLIFFE asked whether the Government proposed to make any arrangements for the more certain transmission of the mails to Australia? and whether they intended to take any steps for more effectually enforcing, or for terminating, the contract for that object with the Royal Australian Mail-packet Company?

Lord CANNING admitted that the company did not fulfil the contracts entered into, and said that the Government would do the best they could to remedy the inconveniences caused thereby. They sent the mails on by other vessels, and would endeavour to prevent such casualties occurring for the future.

After a short discussion, the House adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—THURSDAY.

Mr. T. DUNCOMBE brought up the report of the committee on the Norwich election petition. It will be remembered that a petition had been presented to the House complaining of the withdrawal of the petition of Colonel Dickson, and that he attributed that withdrawal to an arrangement entered into between Mr. Brown, the agent of Colonel Dickson, and Mr. Coppock, the agent for the Liberals, to pair off certain petitions on the one side and the other. The committee was of opinion that no authority had been given for the withdrawal of the petition, and censured the system which seemed to prevail, that agents on both sides should pair off one petition against the other; and they stated that in this case there appeared to have been the withdrawal of petitions affecting ten seats. He concluded by moving that the evidence taken before the committee be printed.—Agreed to.

In answer to a question from Sir De L. EVANS, Lord PALMERSTON stated that Mary Hill, who had been convicted and sentenced to ten years' transportation by Mr. Serjeant Adams, would have her sentence remitted to seven years. The lady (laughter) had been in concert with some of her male confederates, no doubt pure persons (laughter), and accidentally—of course, quite accidentally—robbed (laughter) a person she became acquainted with on a journey, having conveniently by her her male friend (laughter), of course her husband (laughter). The lady was found guilty, and kept up a row in the court (of course accidentally). She had been rescued before she was secured (laughter), and the Judge thought she might have her friends in court—of course, her male friends (roars of laughter)—to rescue her from the Judge and the police. No doubt the lady thought it a hardship to be restrained from showing her own power or that of her male friend's—the husband's (Laughter). But it was necessary to preserve the dignity of the Court and the police, even against the attacks of a lady of so much physical if not moral power (Roars of laughter).

In answer to a question from Lord Stanley, Mr. F. PEEL said that it was the intention of the Government to propose a uniform rate of 6d. for each half ounce for colonial postage, a penny of which 6d. is to be for the colony for delivery.

Mr. NAPIER, in moving for the production of certain papers relating to the Six-Mile-bridge (Ireland) affair, entered into a history of that case, in which there were seven persons, who formed part of a riotous mob, killed by a company of soldiers, while the latter were protecting a body of voters going to the polling place, on the 22d of July last, at the Clare election.

A warm discussion ensued, which was confined to the Irish representatives, and which occupied the House until its adjournment.

EXPLOSION OF TWO STEAMERS.—Two steamers have blown up within the last few days. One, the *George Bolton*, was proceeding to Great Grimsby with a full cargo of cod. When near the Humber, on Friday, her boilers exploded with terrific force, tearing up her decks, and partly splitting the vessel in two. The chief engineer, Christopher Jewett, was found most shockingly scalded, and otherwise much hurt. Another unfortunate man, named James Smith, was also similarly hurt. The vessel sunk, but most of the crew escaped. Two poor fellows seem to have perished, whether from the effects of the explosion, or being unable to escape, is yet to be learnt. The other mishap befel the *Engineer*, which had been recently built on the Tyne. She made an experimental trip on Friday, to test the capabilities of her engines. When off Tynemouth her boilers exploded, and eight or nine persons are reported to have been scalded, some, it is feared, fatally. The steamer became disabled, but was towed back to the Tyne.

NATIONAL SPORTS.

TATTERSALL'S.

MONDAY.—Although the room was well attended, the betting was languid and generally unimportant, an improvement in Ethelbert, Lampedo, Hobby Horse, and Defiance for the Handicap at Newmarket, Epsom, and Northampton being the only changes to which it is necessary to speak. The market prices at the close ruled as follows:—

7 to 1 agst Hobby Horse	12 to 1 agst Maria
15 to 1 agst King of Trumps	
7 to 1 agst Contentment	12 to 1 agst Snowden Dunhill
11 to 1 agst Lampedo	
NEWMARKET HANDICAP.—5 to 1 agst Contentment. 5 to 1 agst Ethelbert.	
TWO THOUSAND GUINEAS.—6 to 4 on the field, agst West Australian and Sittingbourne.	
CHESTER CUP.—15 to 1 agst Trifle. 20 to 1 agst Lady Evelyn.	
9 to 1 agst West Australian	25 to 1 agst Ethelbert
12 to 1 agst Orestes (t)	33 to 1 agst Contentment
13 to 1 agst Cincas	33 to 1 agst Filibet
17 to 1 agst Sittingbourne	40 to 1 agst Queen colt
9 to 2 agst Catherine Hayes	7 to 1 agst The Queen
	14 to 1 agst Mistletoe.

WARWICK AND LEAMINGTON SPRING MEETING.

TUESDAY.

SWEETSTAKES of 5 sovs. each.—Brown f. by the Sheriff, 1. Gip, 2. TRIAL STAKES.—Defiance, 1. Poodle, 2. WOODCOTE STAKES.—Colt by John-o'-Gaunt, 1. Oleaster, 2. WILLOWBY HANDICAP.—The Hero, 1. Dou, 2. A FREE HANDICAP.—Commore, 1. Heroine, 2. The FARMERS' PLATE was won by filly by Heron, dam by Defence, beating seven others.

WEDNESDAY.

DERDALE STAKES.—Tipperary Boy, 1. The Miner, 2. HANDICAP PLATE of 50 sovs.—Catherina, 1. Heroine, 2. TWO-YEAR-OLD STAKES.—The First Lord, 1. Contender, 2. GREAT WARWICKSHIRE HANDICAP.—Little Davie, 1. Commore, 2. MATCH, £50.—Milcote, 1. Tipperary Boy, 2.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY.

In olden times, while the gentry kept open house, and the better class of the peasantry indulged themselves at home, or had recourse to a public-house, to celebrate the nativity of St. Patrick, those lower in the social scale prepared to honour the day after another fashion. The "boy" who was beaten on some previous festival, plotted to have his revenge on this. The "faction" which had the worst of it at the last great fight, mustered their forces to renew the struggle now. And the lovers, who had few opportunities of meeting, anxiously looked forward to the coming holiday. In the north, the Orangemen and Ribbonmen had a grand field-day. On the anniversary of the Battle of the Boyne, the former became the aggressors; on Patrick's Day, the latter took the initiative. In the south and west the annual contests were based upon honour, not religion. To "take and hold" a town on the fair-day when it fell upon the 17th of March, was there the object of ambition; and no sooner had day dawned, than an experienced eye could detect certain symptoms of impending warfare: at either end of the village to be fought for might be seen groups of men assembled round a personage busily employed in distributing "potten" amongst them; and, incredible as it may appear to our English readers, the instances were many where the "head man" of a faction sold his cows to entertain those who volunteered to support his claims. By mid-day, such persons as came on business, and were peaceably inclined, had left the town, in anticipation of the coming conflict; and then the parties started from their respective positions to commence the fray. The leader marched some twenty paces in advance of his followers; with his right-hand he brandished a shillelagh: while in his left he held the sleeve of his coat, which trailed along the ground after him, so that any one who wished to fight, might tread upon it. They met half way, and the battle became general; sometimes from lack of numbers, one party declined the contest, and then their adversaries paraded up and down in triumph, offering liberal pecuniary rewards "for the head" of an opponent. While this scene was being enacted in the public street, other persons carried on a desultory species of warfare, on the fair green, which was studded with tents for refreshment. These premeditated assaults were made on personal enemies, and accidental skirmishes took place which often led to serious consequences. One of the most violent faction feuds in the south arose from a rather ludicrous cause. Tom Casey, a farmer, with a "long following," sold a cow to Jenny Leary, who could also boast a large connection. The men entered a tent to arrange pecuniary matters, and "wet the bargain" with a glass of punch, while two "gaffers" (little boys) held their horses without. The friends tipped, until the tent filled, when the fiddler got on the barrel, and dancing commenced. Mr. Casey wishing to ascertain the state of the weather, and being too "dacent" to disturb the company, thrust a portion of his face through a hole in the canvas, but no sooner did his nose protrude from the opening, than the "gaffer" who held Mr. Leary's horse (not being able to resist the temptation) gave it a sharp tap with a sally-switch. Mr. Casey at once recognised the offender, and not being able to get at him, pulled up a wattle (one of the stakes supporting the canvas), and holding Mr. Leary vicariously responsible for the conduct of his temporary servant, immediately felled that gentleman to the ground. The support being removed, the tent fell in, a general skirmish ensued, and from it originated faction-fights of many years' duration.

The famine has uprooted the greater portion of the aristocratic families, and so broken down the spirit of the peasantry, that the festival of St. Patrick has now ceased to be celebrated with the same amount of fun and fighting as in olden times.

DROWNING THE SHAMROCK ON ST. PATRICK'S NIGHT.

In good old times, when potatoes and whisky were plenty, Patrick's-day was always kept as a special festival in Ireland. Then the squire gathered all his friends around him; there was hard drinking in the parlour, and great jollity in the servants' hall. The ceremonies of the day commenced with the presentation of shamrocks by the servants, who always received gratuities for their attention. Then there was a hunt, at which men rode more desperately than usual: this was followed by a steeple chase, when horses' necks and riders' bones were frequently broken—not a cockney steeple-chase, such as may be seen at Hampton, but a regular Irish one, four miles over a sporting country, interspersed with some sixty or seventy fences, of all sorts and sizes, quick-set double ditches, and six feet walls. This, again, was generally succeeded by a fight; each gentleman who ran a horse mustered his tenantry to support the pretensions of his animal, and every tenant felt his honour as deeply implicated in the success of "the master's steed" as if it were his own private property; and did it happen that there was a particularly popular jockey, the last few fences were passed of veritable danger for those who led or followed him too closely in the race: sticks were hurled, or "caubens" flung, according as the mob wished to hurt or frighten. Then came the return home—the cup carried in triumph at the carriage window by the ladies of the family, who were duly cheered by every inhabitant of every cabin that they passed. Night brought its own amusements. The piper played in the hall during dinner, and was admitted into the parlour after the ladies retired. The national and family tunes came first; and these were followed, as the guests waxed warm, by the "Foxhunter's Jig" and "The Hare in the Corn." Neither was enjoyment confined to the upper regions of the mansion. There was as much happiness and more boisterous merriment in the servants' hall. These were assembled the domestics of the house, the grooms of all the guests, whose horses filled the stables, the huntsman and the whip (where hounds were kept), and the earth-stopper, and the game-keeper, and the stable-men, and the labourers, and favourite neighbours, with their wives and daughters, and that nondescript class of persons "the stray followers," a ubiquitous race, who frequented "big houses," fellows who ran long journeys at the shortest notice, and with the greatest speed, who retailed all the gossip of one house at another, and whose special vocation was, to watch and thwart the machinations of the Sub-Sheriff and his myrmidons: all those classes accumulated formed a sort of floating establishment, in comparison with which that of an Indian Rajah would appear mean and be economical. When "the mistress" calculated that the gentlemen had imbibed a "quantum suff." the denizens of the lower regions were summoned to the grand hall, where the piper, now as jolly as any of the party, struck up some merry reel, "Tattoo Jack Walsh" or "Tumbling on the Mountain," and the bashful housemaid or peasant girl came timidly forward, and reversing the usages of good society, "dropped her courtesy" before the gentleman she wished to dance with; and then the pair danced up and down the middle and turned corners to some eighteen or twenty other couples: the ladies



ST. PATRICK'S DAY.—DRAWN BY GEORGE THOMAS.

looking on, and the common men applauding the performance of their superiors. During the intervals of repose, some crack hornpipe dancer, who could "quilt trebles," exhibited his agility on a door with a loose hasp attached, so that the "quiltings" of his flexible foot might be heard with more distinctness. When the gentlemen were danced down, the retainers retired to their own quarters to continue the fun. The host assembled his guests at supper, and the scene closed with the crowning ceremony of the day,

when each person, glass in hand, and shamrock floating in punch of mountain dew, wished health and happiness, and long life, to all around.

The wealthier portion of the peasantry held revel in their own houses, or adjourned to some neighbouring village, where they might be seen assembled, as in our Artist's sketch: the amateur musician inflicting inharmonious sounds on his neighbours; the young couple, who were to be married at Easter, exchanging tenderesses; the 'ocund

waiter, exerting his wit, and those of his customers who could appreciate enjoying it; "the roving blade," who "kills the girls," quaffing his glass, and treating the "loose boy," who with his "caubeen" set upon "three hairs of his head," his stick under his arm, and the skirts of his great coat tucked up ready for action, wanders from party to party, partaking "the goods the gods bestow," while on the look out for fun; and ready to drink or fight, as occasion may require, being "blue mouldy for want of a bating."



DROWNING THE SHAMROCK ON ST. PATRICK'S NIGHT.—DRAWN BY E. FITZPATRICK.



THE BURMESE WAR.—PROME, FROM THE HEIGHTS.

THE BURMESE WAR.

ONE of the most brilliant exploits of a war which has for the most part reflected little credit upon our arms, is the capture of the Burmese stockade, in the Aeng Pass, the news of which has just been brought by the Overland express. We stated a fortnight ago, that the stockade was considered impregnable except by shelling; and in illustration of the strength of the Burmese stockades, we published a Sketch of the stockade at Martaban. We have now the gratification to announce that the stockade in the Aeng Pass has been carried by a *coup de main* without the loss of a man, by a small party of the Arracan Battalion, under the command of Captain Nuthall, who was sent forward merely to reconnoitre. The capture was effected on the 6th of January last, under the following circumstances:—

When it was first reported, in October last, to the commanding officer in Arracan (Major Maling) that the Burmese had stockaded the Aeng Pass, Captain Barry, with the Arracan Battalion, was ordered to advance against it, and, if practicable, to attack and dislodge the enemy. Captain Barry found the stockade impregnable to a front attack, and Major Maling, who joined the force soon after, was also of the same opinion. A chief named Nakeekay had, however, stated that there was a jungle path by which our troops might advance to a point from which a flanking fire might be directed on the stockade, and an effort was made to turn the enemy's flank in this manner; but the jungle was found so dense that the attempt was abandoned, and Major Maling and Captain Barry reported that it was impossible to take the enemy's position without a strong reinforcement, and a supply of rockets and mortars being sent from Calcutta. Pending the arrival of these, Captain Barry's force was withdrawn from the advanced and very unhealthy position it had occupied at the mouth of the pass, and Captain Nuthall, with Captain Sutherland, and a small party of the Arracan Battalion under his command, was sent forward to gather information regarding the practicability of turning the enemy's flank. Captain Nuthall arrived in the neighbourhood of the pass early in January, and immediately put himself in communi-

cation with Nakeekay, who informed him that the Governor of Mengdoon had proceeded to attack Prome, after which he intended to return and invade Arracan, through the Aeng Pass; there was, therefore, no time to be lost in securing this most important frontier entrance into the British territories, and Captain Nuthall advanced immediately through the jungle paths, debouching on Arracan, considerably to the left of the Burmese position, until at nine A.M. on the 5th, he halted his men, without having been observed, within 800 yards of the pass, and two miles in rear, or on the Burmese side of the stockade. Captain Nuthall, accompanied by Nakeekay and two attendants, then advanced to reconnoitre, and at nightfall moved his force to within 300 yards of the pass. At two o'clock on the following morning, they debouched on the pass, and, guided by Nakeekay, marched up it toward the rear of the Burmese stockade, on reaching the immediate neighbourhood of which Captain Nuthall again advanced to reconnoitre, and, looking through the chinks of the stockades, perceived that the enemy were asleep. He immediately ordered Captain Sutherland to advance against the gate in the rear of the stockade, while he simultaneously attacked its left flank. The Burmese were awakened by a volley of musketry from flank and rear, and immediately fled, panic-struck, leaving their arms and two brass guns behind them. Captain Nuthall and two sepoys only were wounded.

The evacuation of the southern provinces by the Burmese troops has not been so complete as was at first supposed. It is true that, south of the Meaday (where General Godwin was), they have entirely abandoned the western bank of the Irrawaddy, but the eastern bank appears to be as strongly occupied as ever. When the Burmese army that was investing Pegu suddenly raised the siege and marched off, it was surmised that it had either been suddenly recalled to Ava, or had departed to oppose General Steel's intended advance to Martaban. The latter surmise has turned out to be the correct one, and though Pegu is no longer invested by a regular Burmese force, none of the garrison can show themselves outside the walls without being fired at, and an officer has, in this way, lost his life. General Steel's force marched from Martaban on the 14th of January, and on the following day came to a strong stockaded position of the enemy, which was cleared without loss by a little well-directed shelling. The

latest accounts report, however, that General Steel had met with a decided repulse, on attacking the strong stockade of Sitang. The force was a competent one, supported by six guns, and was supposed to be more than equal to the undertaking.

A boat expedition, despatched on the 22nd of January, under Captain Lambert, up a creek near Donabew, against one of the robber chiefs now plundering the lower provinces, has been repulsed with the loss of 13 wounded and killed; amongst the former, one officer very severely. A second expedition against the same enemy was under orders for the 27th; it was to be commanded by Captains Loch, Shadwell, and Lambert, and to consist of 300 soldiers and 100 blue jackets.

The news of the death of the King of Ava is confirmed. The succession to the throne is disputed, and several of the chiefs and members of the Royal family who were commanding troops in the lower provinces have abandoned their further defence, and marched to Ava to take a part in the great struggle for power. One of the competitors for the throne is about to open negotiations with General Godwin, and has despatched an English prisoner from Ava for the purpose. General Godwin and the Commissioner have proceeded to Meaday to meet him, and it is reported that an English embassy is to proceed to Ava.

The cause of the recent revolution at Ava is not clearly known. It would appear that the famine price of rice, occasioned by the British occupation of the lower provinces, having rendered the King (who was the soul of the war party) extremely obnoxious to the inhabitants of his capital, the Prime Minister, who was also a member of the Royal family, placed himself at the head of the malcontents, assassinated the King, and assumed the ensigns of sovereignty after imprisoning or otherwise disposing of the late King's brother. The opposite faction assert the right of the heir apparent, a nephew of the deceased Monarch, who is a mere lad, and a tool in the hands of those who surround him.

The latest dates from Rangoon are to the 26th January. The health of the troops was improving.

THE CITY OF PROME, FROM THE HEIGHTS.

By the gallant capture of the stockade in the Aeng Pass, the road is open for the arrival of the reinforcements; which the Governor-General had ordered to be sent from Calcutta to Arracan. These reinforcements will now march through the Aeng Pass into the basin of the Irrawaddy, to cut off all communication between Ava and Prome. The capture of Prome on the 9th October, by the British forces, was an important event, since it gave us the command of the lower portion of the river Irrawaddy, and of the water communication with Rangoon and Bassein. Prome may be considered the third town in the Burmese empire; Ava, the capital, being the first, and Rangoon ranking second. We have been favoured with an effective Sketch of Prome, from the pencil of George D. Willoughby, Esq., Lieutenant and Adjutant, Bengal Artillery, who was present at the storming of Rangoon, and from thence went to Prome. The View is taken from the heights. The large building to the right of the centre of the View is the Golden Pagoda, which was defended by 500 men against a detachment of the 80th Regiment, who, after a sharp contest, drove the enemy out of the Pagoda, and put them to flight. Three or four other pagodas, and an idol, occupy the foreground on the left. In the right-hand distance lies the way to Ava up the river. Upon the heights are encamped European infantry, who look forth across a stream of a thousand yards, at the rocky heights which guard the right bank. These are a portion of the chain of wooded hills, which extend in unbroken links from a point on the right bank, forty miles below Prome, to another point, 160 miles above it. This line of 200 miles is beautiful throughout. In the more abrupt bends of the river the rocks, which occasionally decorate the left bank also, seem to unite themselves amphitheatrically to those of the right. The site of Prome is salubrious as well as beautiful, and the air of the breezy hills around it is still more delicious. From Prome to Ava the distance by the river is about 260 miles. When the last advices left a British garrison remained at Prome; but General Godwin was higher up the river, at Meeday, some forty miles nearer to the capital.

MUSIC.

PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY.

A full subscription, a large audience, a new symphony of no ordinary merit, the revival of a fine but neglected overture by Beethoven, the successful debut of a young and gifted pianist, the "Eroica" epic marvelously executed—such were the features of the first Philharmonic Concert of the season. The directors have every reason to be proud of their opening programme; and Costa was full of energy and zeal, giving vitality to a performance, the perfection of which the most refined musical city on the Continent would find it difficult to excel. The scheme was thoroughly healthy and promising, preserving the beauties of the master-minds, and introducing the novelties of their followers. Gade's symphony in A minor, proved that Mendelssohn had not overrated the powers of the musician of Denmark; but Gade is more like an ancient Roman than a Dane. His forms are classical and elevated, his ideas are melodic and fresh. The allegretto was encoored; it is piquant and showy. The overture in C. Op. 124, of Beethoven, would have been unexceptionable, but for the mishaps of the brass in the fugued allegro; the andante was nobly rendered. The funeral march in the colossal conception of Beethoven, the immortal "Eroica" symphony was so magnificently coloured by Costa that it was listened to with breathless attention; perhaps the recollection of the interment of England's hero at St. Paul's added to the awe and sentiment which it inspired. Spohr's "Berg-geist" overture, and Corelli's old-fashioned trio, cleverly played by Lucas, Hancock, and Howell, came in for their share of admiration. Mrs. F. B. Jewson (late Miss Anderson Kirkham) is another of those finished pupils whom Mrs. Anderson, the pianist to her Majesty, has introduced to the musical world. Mrs. Jewson's reading of Mendelssohn's Concerto in G minor was from memory—no common achievement; and she won the warmest plaudits by the taste and intelligence she displayed. Miss Dolby and Madame Castellani were the vocalists, and their selections from Winter, Weber, Jomelli, and Rossini. Various works by Cherubini, Schubert, Schumann, Mehul, Berlioz, &c., are to be produced, the directors having wisely resolved to ascertain whether the domain of art may not be safely extended.

NEW PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY.

The second season commenced at Exeter-hall on Wednesday night before a very large auditory. Mr. Beale has retired from the direction, and Berlioz from the conductorship. The chief manager and occasional conductor is now Dr. Wyld, a young pianist and composer of some pretensions. Herr Lindpaintner will direct the first four concerts, and Spohr will hold the baton, for the last two. Mr. Jarrett, the horn-player, has engaged the orchestra, which contains upwards of a hundred players including no less than eighty stringed. Mr. Willy replaces Sivi as *chef d'attaque*. The scheme comprised Mendelssohn's symphony in A minor; Beethoven's "Egmont" overture; Lindpaintner's "Va-pire" overture; Mendelssohn's "Athaliah" march; a clever clarinet concerto by Lindpaintner, exquisitely executed by M. Wulle; and Beethoven's glorious pianoforte concerto in C minor, most eloquently rendered by Mme. Claus. The vocalists were Mr. Lockey, Mr. Weiss, and Mrs. Endersohn. There were also choruses from "Fidelio" ("The Prisoners"); the Derivish Chorus, from Beethoven's "Ruins of Athens" (re-demanded); and one from Gluck's "Iphigenia en Tauride." Lindpaintner, the *kapellmeister* to the King of Wurtemberg, is one of the most distinguished of existing musicians in Germany; and, as a conductor, he must, be styled the first of his class, even if that class be not the first. His tendency is to hurry the time, and thus to render complicated passages somewhat obscure; but we are not quite sure that the Hall itself is not much more responsible for this defect of obscurity than Herr Lindpaintner. The scherzo of the symphony was encoored; and Weiss was similarly honoured in the bass solo of *Sarastro*, from "Il Flauto Magico." On the whole, barring the loss of Berlioz, which has been a grievous mistake, the season has begun favourably; and as there is no end of novelty promised in the prospectus, besides a new Music Hall, we will live in hope.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The sixth concert of the English Glee and Madrigal Union (Mrs. Endersohn, Miss Williams, Messrs. Lockey, Hobbs, Foster, Barnby, and Phillips) took place last Monday, at Willis's Rooms.

Mr. Sterndale Bennett concluded his admirable series of pianoforte performances at the Hanover-square Rooms last Tuesday, in the presence of a numerous and fashionable auditory. The Serenade, and his own beautiful Trio in A. Op. 26, for piano, violin (Santoni), and violoncello (Piatti), was encoored. A great treat was afforded also by Beethoven's quintetto, Op. 16, in E flat, for piano, clarinet (Mr. Williams), oboe (Mr. Nicholson), bassoon (Mr. Baumann), and horn (Mr. C. Harper). The vocalists were Miss B. Street and Miss M. Rose.

Mr. Charles Bouler had his annual concert on Tuesday night, at the Freemasons' Tavern.

M. A. Billet gave his third evening performance of classical pianoforte music, at the Hanover-square Rooms, on Thursday. The German Vocal Union sang quartets, and Mrs. Temple airs by Mendelssohn; and Benedict, Herr Jansa (violin), and Herr Paque (violinello), assisted M. Billet.

Mr. Charles Salaman opened his classical campaign of pianoforte music at the Queen Anne-street Rooms on Thursday, aided by Santoni, R. Blagrove (viola), Hancock (violinello), and Reynolds (double-bass). Mrs. Weiss, Miss Messent, Mr. Alfred Pierre, and Mr. F. Borda. Mr. Salaman is a composer of some very elegant canzonets, as well as being an accomplished pianist.

Mr. Charles Cotton, a basso, met his friends and patrons, after his continental tour, on Tuesday night, at Willis's Rooms. He was supported, in the instrumental department, by Madame Bonpiani (piano), Mr. Aylward (violinello), Herr Nabich (trombone), and Mr. F. Thesens Stevens, accompanist. The vocalists were Madame Nodden, from the Royal Theatres of Copenhagen, Hanover, and Brunswick; a clever singer of northern ditties, national as well as sentimental; Mrs. Sims Reeves, Miss Dolby, Mrs. G. A. Cooper, and Herr Brandt.

The fourth and last of Mr. Ella's musical winter evenings at Willis's Rooms, on Thursday, maintained the high character they have earned both for execution and selection. Spohr's quintet in G, Op. 33, Schumann's quintet in E flat, Op. 44; Mendelssohn's quartet, No. 1, in A minor, Op. 13; and Beethoven's sonata in C, Op. 53, indicated that the clever director has no intolerance, and is disposed to give his supporters the advantage of variety. With such eloquent exponents as the captivating Mlle. Claus, the gifted Moliere, and Piatti the refined, and with Mellon, Webb, and Goffrie, the scheme must have been indeed a *bonne bouche*. Madame Doria was the vocalist.

Mr. George Forbes' benefit concert on Tuesday last was signalled by the engagements of Madame Florentini, Mrs. A. Newton, Madame F. Lablache, Miss Messent, Santoni, Giulio Regondi, Signor Nappa, Signor F. Lablache, and the Messrs. Barthey and Cazaly (pianists).

Mr. Walter Rodes' evening concert took place at the Walworth Lecture-hall on Thursday, under the direction of Herr Anschuetz: the artists were Miss Lizzy Stuart, Madame Zimmerman, Miss E. Case, Messrs. G. Tedder, E. L. Hime, J. W. Borsham, Blackbee, and S. Rook.

The Countess of Wicklow gave a second concert in Cavendish-square on Tuesday, under the able direction of Sir H. R. Bishop. The vocalists were Madame Castellani, Miss Birch, Miss Dolby, Mr. Benson, and Mr. Phillips; and the selections were from Puer, Gaglielmi, Mozart, Gluck, Attwood, Handel, Haydn, Paisiello, Stevens, Dr. Clarke, Winter, &c. There was a large party of fashionables present, and the performance was excellent.

BERLIOZ.—It is with the greatest satisfaction we announce that the directors of the Royal Italian Opera, faithful to the principle on which that great lyric establishment was founded—to encourage art progress, without distinction of country or of composers, and without bigotry of feeling as to schools—have entered into arrangements with the composer of the "Romeo and Juliet" and "Harold" symphonies to produce his opera of "Benvenuto Cellini," originally brought out at the Grand Opera in Paris, and which lately created such a sensation at Weimar, under the composer's direction. Berlioz will, therefore, visit London again this season; and we are glad to learn that a committee, so that his great instrumental compositions may be heard during his visit. His opera will be mounted at Covent-garden, with all the resources of the theatre.

BALFE AT ST. PETERSBURGH.—Our popular English composer has been received in the Russian capital with signal honour. The Imperial Royal family have bestowed marked attention, and were present at his concert in the Salle de l'Assemblée de la Noblesse, at which upwards of 3000 persons attended. Madame Viardot was rapturously encoored in Balfe's scherzo, with chorus; and in the brilliant finale from the "Maid of Artois." Mario's Italian version of "You'll Remember Me" from the "Bohemian Girl," was also re-demanded. Ronconi, De Bassini, and Lablache (what a triad!) sang the trio of basses from the "Siege of Rochelle;" and Madame Viardot, Mlle. Medori, and Madame Maray, the trio of soprani, from "Falstaff." Mlle. De Méric sang Balfe's "Speranza." His overtures to the "Daughter of St. Marc" and the "Diable à Quatre," were executed by the band. Balfe has received the most costly presents from the Emperor and Empress of Russia. Balfe is engaged to compose an opera for Vienna, after his departure from Russia. The acting and singing of Mlle. Maria Lablache, the daughter of the Titan of basses, at a private performance before the Court, of Donizetti's "Figli del Reggimento" are highly praised. Her father, it is stated, however, will not allow her to go on the stage.

THE ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA.—Mr. Frederick Gye has been in Paris to make arrangements for the opening of the Covent-garden season,

on Easter Tuesday. Grisi is recovering from her interesting indisposition. Weber's "Oberon" will be the earliest novelty.

Mr. Alleroff's Farewell Musical Festival will take place at Exeter Hall, on Monday. Mr. and Mrs. Sims Reeves, Mesdames Nodden and Favanti, are among the artists engaged; with the Tyrolese Singers, &c.

A PRIMA DONNA PUNISHED.—A curious scene took place recently at the San Carlo, at Naples. The new prima donna, L'Alaymo, made her appearance in "Medea." Towards the close of the act it became evident that the audience were disappointed with her, and expressed the same. The lady, irritated by such repeated expressions of disapprobation, suddenly left the stage, and the curtain fell. The police immediately marched her off, in her theatrical dress, to prison, where she remained for 48 hours—a rather severe castigation even for Naples.

THE THEATRES.

ST. JAMES'S.

The performances of French plays continues to be illustrated by the talents of MM. Ravel and Lafont, and of Mlle. Luther. "Les Ressources de Jonathas"—displaying the contrivances of a servant to serve two masters, living in the same house, and inimical to each other—furnishes the usual opportunities for the exercise of M. Ravel's peculiar humour. M. Lafont, as *General Redon*, in "Une Petite Fille de la Grande," gives to the expression of military sentiment a gentlemanly bearing and a make up thoroughly artistic. The Bonapartist young lady, his daughter, *Hortense*, was admirably sustained by Mlle. Luther. The piece is not one, indeed, calculated to interest an English audience, nor has it enduring qualities even as a French vaudeville; but the excellent acting which it elicits justifies its representation.

On Monday "Le Mariage au Miroir" was brought out. Mlle. Luther, as *Zoe*, makes use of the mirror of Hymen to her own discomfort; and, at length, learning that a woman may know too much for her peace, is fain to dispense with the dangerous privilege of seeing too far and too much. She was well supported by M. Leon. Her Majesty and Prince Albert were present.

On Wednesday was performed "Faute de s'Entendre;" and this evening (Saturday) M. Ravel will make his last appearance, in "L'Etourneau."

SADLER'S WELLS.

On Thursday, Mr. Phelps revived, at this theatre, for his benefit, "The Second Part of Henry IV.," in which the worthy manager enacted the character of the Monarch (having been selected by her Majesty to support the same in the late performance of the tragedy at Windsor Castle). Besides, this, however, he undertook the impersonation of *Justice Shallow*. The merit of both these assumptions will justify a more extended notice than is now possible.

CANTERBURY.—Last Monday, Miss Edith Heraud closed an engagement at this theatre, with "The Lady of Lyons." The house was crowded in every part.

THE ISTHMUS OF DARIEN.

A crowded meeting of the Royal Geographical Society was held on Monday, at the Theatre of the Royal Institution; Sir R. I. Murchison in the chair. The paper read was "On the Great Isthmus of Central America," by Captain Robert Fitzroy, R.N., F.R.S., F.R.G.S. He referred to his former paper on the same subject, and expressed a hope that the present might be considered as only supplementary to the former. After some introductory remarks, Captain Fitzroy took a brief view of seven proposed lines of inter-oceanic communication. He then mentioned the novel and important information recently received—especially from Mr. Gisborne and Dr. Cullen—and showed that, whatever preference might have been given in 1850 to the Atrato and Cupica line for a water communication, there is no argument that can be adduced in favour of that line that does not apply with far greater effect to the line proposed between the Gulf of San Miguel and Caledonian Harbour. Captain Fitzroy then entered into the nature and feasibility of a canal on such a gigantic scale as is contemplated by Sir Charles Fox and Company. He alluded to the labour attainable, to the possibility of employing convicts, and to the rudeness of establishing military organisation to certain extent. He then referred to the two great impediments to such an undertaking—the aborigines and the climate—and he showed by what means these obstacles might be greatly lessened. He then referred to Mr. Gisborne's opinions of the size and nature of such a canal, and advanced others, somewhat at variance with them. He referred to the claims of other companies, to certain legal doubts that should be solved, and to the general character and object of an enterprise so important that—when a survey shall have fully proved the whole case—Government will, doubtless, assist the undertaking, and all maritime nations will eagerly unite in guaranteeing its *absolute neutrality*. The discussion was maintained until a late hour, and the meeting adjourned to the 11th of April.

The first general meeting of the directors of the Atlantic and Pacific Junction Company was held the same day; Lord Wharncliffe in the chair. After Sir Charles Fox had given an outline of his whole proceedings in relation to this great undertaking, the communications with her Majesty's Government, and with that of the United States, were laid before the meeting. It was announced that the £24,000 caution money will be duly paid to the credit of New Granada with the Bank of England; and it was unanimously agreed that the amount of £75,000, required for preliminary expenditure was reasonable and fully justified. The Board was also informed that a communication is to be expected in the course of a few days from the British Ambassador in Paris, to fix a day on which the Emperor of the French would give an audience to Sir Charles Fox, and a deputation from the company, in whose arrangements, it is hoped, that France and Russia, as great maritime powers, will co-operate with the British and American Governments. The necessary resolutions for the future proceedings were then agreed to, and the meeting separated.

THE "AUSTRALIAN."—This unfortunate iron screw-steamer (belonging to the Australian Royal Mail Steam Navigation Company), having left Plymouth on the 10th, again returned on the 14th; and the following details by one of the passengers will explain the cause of her return: he stated, "they had had nineteen days' incessant suspense and excitement; four trial trips, and two breakdowns; twelve hours calm in the Bay of Biscay, and when they turned round, they only got on as the wind served, the vessel at the time making so much water that the passengers were compelled for their own safety to work the pumps, which they did for twenty-four hours, the crew of the ship consisting only of eighteen men and six boys, just enough to furl one sail at a time, leaving no hands to do the other duties of the ship." Great complaints were made as to the manner in which the luggage had been disposed of, the company having almost filled the ship with freight, and sent on, without the knowledge of the passengers, a large proportion of their things in another vessel. A meeting was held on the deck of the vessel, and very strong resolutions were passed against the company; and also aiming from them compensation for "all the losses and necessary expenses to which we have been subjected." Another resolution ran thus—"That this meeting sympathises with Captain Hoscanson and his officers, and crew, as well as with the chief engineer (Mr. Clements), engineers and stokers, and the harassing and additional duties imposed on them by the bad management of the company." Four of the passengers were deputed to hand in person the resolutions, so passed, to the directors of the company; to whom the public will look for full explanation. The directors have come to the determination of returning the passage-money to those who may apply for it. The luckless *Australian* has left Plymouth to return to London, to have her cargo discharged, and be docked there.

THREE SHIPS DESTROYED BY FIRE.—Intelligence has been received at Lloyd's, Boston, of a terrific calamity along the eastern coast of North America. During the storm the *J. Swazey*, steamer, laden with 1200 bales of cotton and 100 passengers, took fire off New Orleans. The *St. Charles* steamer bore down, but approaching too near, the flames communicated, and both vessels speedily became a mass of fire. It was with much difficulty the passengers were got into the boat, twenty, however, perishing in the flames, which destroyed both vessels. Intelligence was also received of the total loss by fire of the *Hope*, of Liverpool, Phillips, master, bound for Demerara. The fire was occasioned by one of the men getting into the spirit-room with an unsheltered candle. The crew fortunately escaped by the boats, and landed at Demerara. These losses, amounting to £108,000, are covered by insurance.

GREAT AVALANCHE IN FRANCE.—An enormous avalanche of snow fell at Liebold, department of the Arige. It swept away crops, trees, and detached houses, and completely buried the hamlet, with all its population. 400 men from the adjacent villages immediately assembled, and, after a great deal of labour, succeeded in rescuing twelve persons. They were all sadly bruised and partly frozen; but it is hoped they will recover. Nine dead bodies, three of them children, were dug out; also a number of horses and oxen. The amount of loss was very great.

HURRICANE AT CORFU.—Under date of February 20, we have news from Corfu of the most distressing character. On the 19th a terrible hurricane burst over the island. The roof of the Governor's palace was lifted off; an olive forest, the pride and wealth of Corfu, was destroyed, a hundred trees on the esplanade were uprooted; and five lives were lost. Inland, the loss of life is variously estimated between thirty and eighty persons. Several ships had been driven on shore.

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY COMPANY.—On Thursday the half-yearly meeting of this company was held at the Bridge House Hotel; Mr. James Macgregor in the chair; and the half-yearly dividend of 11s. per share declared.

METROPOLITAN NEWS.

RESULTS OF METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS, TAKEN DURING THE WEEK ENDING THURSDAY, MARCH 17.

Month and Day.	Corrected Reading of Barometer at 9 A.M.	Thermometer. Highest Reading.	Lowest Reading.	Mean Temperature of the Day.	Departure of Temperature from Average.	Degree of Humidity.	Direction of Wind.	Rain in Inches.
Mar. 11	Inches. 30.159	56.8	32.1	43.3	+ 2.6	84	E.S.E.	0.00
" 12	30.121	58.7	35.6	47.2	+ 4.7	81	E.S.E.	0.00
" 13	29.830	63.5	31.3	48.6	+ 7.4	75	S.E.	0.00
" 14	29.491	48.1	44.1	43.5	+ 2.1	96	W.S.W.	0.52
" 15	29.593	53.6	31.2	41.1	— 0.4	76	S.W.	0.00
" 16	29.603	46.2	35.6	38.0	— 3.7	92	N.E.	0.00
" 17	29.827	34.0	30.5	29.9	— 11.9	89	E.N.E.	0.02

Note.—The sign + denotes above the average, and the sign — below the average. The numbers in the seventh column are calculated on the supposition that the saturation of the air is represented by 100.

The mean reading of the barometer for the week, at the height of 82 feet above the sea, was 29.804 inches, and the range in the week 0.688 inches. The weather during the week has been very changeable; and the temperature, which was 2° in excess on the 11th, rose on the 13th to 7° above its average, and from that time to the 17th declined rapidly, on which day it was nearly 12° in defect. The mean temperature of the week was 41.4°, being 2.7° above the average of the ten preceding weeks, and 0.1° below the average of thirty-eight years. The average difference of temperature daily during the week was 17.2°, or 5.8° above the average of the ten preceding weeks. The range of temperature during the week was 33°, the highest reading being 63.5° on the 13th, and the lowest 34.0° on the 17th, while the range of temperature on the 13th alone was slightly above 32°. Rain fell on the 14th to the depth of rather more than half an inch. Fog was prevalent early on the 12th and 13th, and sleet on the 17th.

Lewisham, March 17th, 1853.

JAMES GLAISHER.

HEALTH OF LONDON.—During the week ending last Saturday, 1816 children were born; of these 892 were boys, and 924 were girls. The number of births exceeds the average of the eight corresponding weeks in the eight preceding years by 343. The number of deaths in the week was 1436, of which 600 occurred to individuals under 15 years of age, 460 at 15 years and under 60; and 360 at 60 and upwards. To diseases of the lungs and other organs of respiration, 391 deaths are attributed. Their average is 211; among them, 233 are due to bronchitis, whose average is 78; to zymotic diseases, 224, their average is 196. Among these were two cases only of small-pox, whose average is 61; to hooping-cough, 79, whose average is 48; to typhus, 53, whose average is 41; to tubercular diseases, 231; their average is 203; of these 167 are due to consumption, whose average is 149. To violence, privation, cold, and intemperance, 51 deaths are due.

ROYAL WESTMINSTER OPHTHALMIC HOSPITAL.—On Sunday morning last an eloquent sermon was preached at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, by the vicar, the Rev. H. McKenzie, M.A., on behalf of the above excellent institution. It appears that upwards of 6000 persons are relieved annually, of which number about 5000 are children; and that since the foundation of the hospital, in the year 1816, on an average one person has been restored to sight weekly by operation. The collection amounted to £52.

M.P.'S FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.—Lord Aberdeen on Wednesday received a deputation of numerous and influential learned professors, on the subject of enfranchising their University. His Lordship remarked, after hearing the deputation, that he acknowledged their claims; and, in conclusion, said—"I assure you, in the most sincere and warmest manner possible, that the matter will be taken under the most serious consideration of the Government. I do not say this as a mere words of course, but I beg you to believe that such will positively be the case."

BANK OF ENGLAND.—At a general court held on Thursday, the Governor said he had to inform the court that, during the half-year ending Feb. 28, the profits have been £563,049, and that the Rest out of which the dividend is to be paid is £3,594,233. That will enable the court to declare a dividend of four per cent on the half-year, and will leave, after the payment of the dividend, the Rest at £3,012,113.

THE ADVERTISEMENT DUTY.—The Chancellor of the Exchequer received, on Saturday, a deputation of gentlemen connected with the newspaper press, on the subject of the advertisement duty. They were introduced by Mr. Ewart, M.P., who submitted a succinct list of objections to the tax. The object of the deputation was the total repeal of the tax; but, in answer to an inquiry from the Chancellor, it was admitted by all the gentlemen present (except Mr. Young, representative of the *Sun* newspaper) that its reduction to 6d. would afford material relief to the advertising public; and it was urged that the reduction of the duty to 6d. would most probably be attended with an immediate increase of revenue.

THE TEA DUTY.—A meeting of merchants and others connected with the tea trade was held on Monday morning, at which a memorial to the Chancellor of the Exchequer was adopted, urging a reduction of the duty to 1s., by an immediate operation, instead of by degrees, as recently proposed.

THE LONDON COAL DUTY.—On Saturday, in the Marylebone vestry, Mr. Hodges moved the adoption of a report recommending a petition praying the repeal of the duty on coal, and the tax upon carts entering and leaving the city of London, of which Marylebone paid £25,000. Mr. C. George seconded the motion; and said that, if the Corporation of London conducted their affairs as did the vestry of Marylebone, they would require no tax. Alderman Salomons defended the Corporation, and justified their expenditure, as essential to sustain the dignity and the hospitality of the City. The motion was, however, carried.

REFORM IN THE CUSTOMS.—A very influential deputation of members of Parliament and representatives of the mercantile and commercial communities of London and the outports waited upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer, at Downing-street, on Saturday, for the purpose of representing to him their wants and wishes in connexion with the proposed reform in the Customs department. Mr. J. I. Travers introduced the deputation, observing that the suggestions of the gentlemen composing it were embodied in a memorial, which he read.

OPENING THE CRYSTAL PALACE ON SUNDAY.—A meeting of young men employed in large mercantile houses and various public offices in the city, was held on Wednesday, at the London Tavern, when resolutions were moved and carried; and a petition to Parliament against the opening of the Palace on Sunday, agreed to. Amendments were proposed by Mr. Newton and Mr. Nicols; but were rejected. The admission to the meeting was by tickets.—The same evening, a meeting of the engineers, blacksmiths, hatters, and members of other trades, of St. Saviour's, Southwark, was held in the large School-room of that parish, for the purpose of gathering the opinion of the working-classes of that district on the subject of the proposed opening of the Crystal Palace on the Lord's-day. Resolutions were proposed and carried, by a large majority, in favour of keeping the Crystal Palace closed on Sundays, and a petition to that effect was adopted, only ten hands being held up in opposition.

METROPOLITAN DRAINAGE.—On Monday evening, a meeting of delegates from the several parishes was held at the Court-house, Marylebone, to take into consideration the principle of a private bill at present before Parliament, which proposes to effect the drainage of the metropolis by two great tunnels—one upon each side of the Thames. Several of the delegates, although finding fault with some of the clauses of the bill, supported it in the main, as it upset the present system of centralisation. They also compared it with Mr. Frank Foster's scheme, by which they would have to pay 5 per cent upon £5,000,000, and repay that amount; whereas they would, by the provisions of the bill, only have to pay 3 per cent upon £1,000,000. Others disapproved of the bill, as interfering with local self-government. After much discussion, a friendly amendment was carried, postponing the consideration of the bill for one week; and the proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the chairman.—The same day, the City Commission of Sewers also adopted a petition to Parliament in opposition to the bill. The committee represent the proposed incorporation of the Drainage Company as a derogation of their authority, and the plans of the company as objectionable, and likely to prove burdensome to the public. Besides praying that any powers which Parliament may see fit to confer upon the proposed incorporation may be subordinate to the City Commission, the petitioners ask to be heard by counsel and witnesses against the bill and its objectionable clauses.

THE CORPORATION OF LONDON.—A requisition, signed by 23 Aldermen and 124 Common Councilmen, was on Monday evening presented to the Lord Mayor, calling upon his Lordship to convene a Court of Common Council. "To take into consideration the propriety of introducing into Parliament a bill to effect suitable alterations in the Corporation of London, and to obtain the support of Government to the measure." The requisition originated with the Court of Aldermen, who had refused their consent to the prosecution of retailers, in consequence of their inability to compel the rich merchants and wholesale dealers to become free.

MARYLEBONE FREE LIBRARY.—On Wednesday night a public meeting, emanating from the working-men's committee, for establishing a free library in Marylebone, was held at 60, Paddington-street; Mr. Wilson was called to the chair. The chairman informed the meeting that the subscriptions, including those of the Bishops of London and Durham, and several other influential promoters of the movement, amounted to £800.

EPITOME OF NEWS.—FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC.

There are three candidates in the field for the representation of Hull—Mr. W. B. Currie, son of Mr. Itaiques Currie, M.P.; Sir Charles Douglas, who held office as one of the Lords of the Treasury, under the Peel Administration; and Lord Duncan.

Dr. Forbes Winslow has been elected President of the Medical Society of London.

The young Danish poet Christian Molbech, the translator of Dante, is appointed professor of Danish and the Northern languages in the University of Kiel.

A deputation from the Free Kirk of Scotland, headed by the eminent Dr. Candlish, is now in London, for the purpose of conferring with the Government on the subject of national education.

On Sunday eight Jews were baptised at the Jews' Episcopal Church, Pale-st. ne-place.

Mr. Robert Bunch is appointed her Britannic Majesty's Consul at Philadelphia. Mr. Samuel Henry, of Lerwick, is appointed Commissary Clerk of Zetland.

The King of Denmark sledged on Sunday week from Frederiksberg to Kronborg Castle. He was enthusiastically received; and a number of the pilots and ferry-men accompanied him part of the way back in boats placed on sledges.

The beach at Morpha Bychan and Harlech, Wales, has lately been strewn with dead pullets and razor-bills. A question arises as to whether these birds are migratory or not, or is this the result of the very severe westerly gales we have experienced.

The United States Charge d'Affaires has arrived at Florence, from Washington: diplomatic relations, which were for a brief period suspended, having been renewed.

Lieutenant Cookney, R.N., has subscribed the liberal sum of fifty guineas in aid of the Chapel Building Fund of the Royal Naval School, at New-cross.

Negotiations are at present going on between Austria and Russia for the introduction of complete uniformity in the construction of railways in both states.

On Sunday morning police sergeant Patterson, who was severely burned on the preceding Wednesday, while attempting to extinguish a fire at a chemical warehouse in Holborn, died of his injuries in Bartholomew's Hospital.

The States of Oldenburg have taken the oaths of fidelity to their new Sovereign. On this occasion his Royal Highness solemnly renewed his promise to maintain the Constitution and existing laws.

A deputation of the Epidemiology Society, consisting of Dr. Babington (the president), Mr. Grainger, Dr. Waller Lewis, Dr. Seaton, and Mr. Marson, had an interview with Lord Palmerston on Saturday at the Horse-office, on the subject of the Vaccination Extension Bill.

In the Southampton election case, a person named Bower refused to take the oath, and was placed in custody of the Sergeant-at-Arms: he has been released without paying the fees; and it is said he found the "prison of the House of Commons" so comfortable as to be almost careless whether he was caged there till the Easter recess.

Colonel Peter Hawker, the well-known sportsman, we regret to state, is suffering from a long and severe illness, and is in a very precarious state.

Mr. E. Knatchbull Hugesson, son of the late Sir Edward Knatchbull, has announced himself a candidate for Canterbury.

Robert Bunch, Esq., now British Vice-Consul at New York, has been appointed her Majesty's Consul at Philadelphia.

The Prussian fleet, fit for sea-service, consists at present of 48 vessels, large and small, with 104 guns, including the frigate *Gefion*, of 42 guns.

Six new petitions were filed during last week in the Encumbered Estates Court; and the amount paid to claimants, by order of the Commissioners, was £92,821.

Orders have been given by the Spanish Government to have the surveys of the railway from Madrid to the French frontier urged on as rapidly as possible. Advantageous propositions have been made on the subject by several foreign companies.

William Charles Sargeant, Esq., has been appointed Colonial Secretary for the district of Natal, in South Africa.

M. Friederich, a sculptor of Strasburg, has resolved to erect a statue of red mountain stone in honour of St. Bernard de Manton, founder of the well-known hospital which bears his name. It will be the most elevated monument in Europe.

The Killarney Junction Railway will be opened on the 20th of May, and the event will be inaugurated by a banquet.

The value of landed property within the walls of Alexandria (Egypt) has increased to an enormous extent; and the rents of houses have, within the last year, been in many cases doubled.

The ship *Governor Higginson* was totally destroyed by fire, in Madras roads, on January 25 and 26. No lives were lost.

The *Sligo Journal* states, that "hundreds" are preparing to leave that county. Large sums of money have been sent home by emigrants, and two or three of almost every labouring family in and about Sligo have had their passage paid.

A labouring man, named Dubs, lately died at Mannheim, aged 102 years and 2 months.

Most of the refugees in Turkey have asked permission to emigrate, and those who remain are to be incorporated with the troops stationed at Broussa.

The American army musters 10,000 men, on paper; 8000 being about its real strength. There are very few native Americans in the ranks, most of the men being Irish, English, Scotch, or German. In the field, the Irish are reckoned the best soldiers; in barracks, the Germans are most esteemed.

On Friday evening two convicts escaped from the new convict prison at Portsmouth, a place from which escape was thought impossible. One was captured at Kingston the same night; the other, the next day, at Landport.

The mails for the Cape of Good Hope, and intermediate places, have been taken out of the *Australian*, and placed on board the *Lady Jocelyn*, which sailed from Plymouth for the Mauritius and Calcutta, on Tuesday.

John Williams, an American, was hung on Monday, at Green-law, Berwickshire, for the murder of Andrew Mather, a toll-keeper.

The New Jetty at Margate is about to be commenced. The contract has been let for £11,000 to Mr. Basto.

The sixteenth annual meeting of the Grocers and Tea-dealers' Benevolent Society was held at the London Tavern on Monday last. There are forty-one pensioners on the funds, and the total stock invested is £17,000.

The electors of Southwark have invited Sir W. Molesworth to a public dinner, on the 31st inst., at the Bridge-house Hotel, to celebrate the right hon. baronet's accession to office.

Two men, named James McMahon and John Robinson, have been examined, and remanded, on suspicion of the robbery at Mr. Howard's jewellery-shop, in Manchester, on Monday week last.

On Sunday last the Bishop of London preached a sermon at Trinity Church, Marylebone, in aid of the funds of the Medical Benevolent College. The collection produced £20.

Charles Saunders, the man who murdered Mr. Tollet, near Ilford, has been removed from Newgate to Chelmsford: his execution will take place on Wednesday next.

The residence of the Rev. F. A. Piggott, 31, Lower Belgrave-street, Eaton-square, has been burglariously entered, and some plate, coats, &c., valued at £20, stolen therefrom. The thieves have not been discovered; but the neighbourhood is much alarmed by the robbery.

On Monday a man, in removing some gravel from the churchyard of Wigmore, Wilts, broke an earthen bottle containing 120 early English silver coins.

The trial of the man accused of having assassinated the Archbishop of Paris, in the insurrection of June 1848, is to take place before a court martial on Monday next.

A market gardener at the Merric Creek, Melbourne, has, in eight months, cleared £4000 by fruit and vegetables.

Mr. Hindson, M.P., has appealed against the judgment of Sir John Romilly, Master of the Rolls.

By late advices from the Australian colonies we learn that 12,000 emigrants and 152 ships had arrived in Port Phillip during the month of December.

Some 150 men were at work on floats, repairing the bridge at Thom, on the river Vistula, when the ice suddenly broke up, capsized the floats, and carried away some fifty men, twenty of whom were drowned.

A deputation of framework-knitters from Leicester has had an interview with Mr. E. Cardwell at the Board of Trade, in reference to the heavy amount of deductions made from their wages under various pretences.

The newly-appointed Bishop of Lincoln, the Rev. John Jackson, previous to his consecration by the Archbishop of Canterbury, which is expected to take place early next month, will receive the degree of D.D. The *congé d'élire* has been received, and the election will shortly take place.

CHESS.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

E. F. H.—One or two are marked for insertion. The others are incorrect, or too simple.

F. A. N.—It is too palpable.

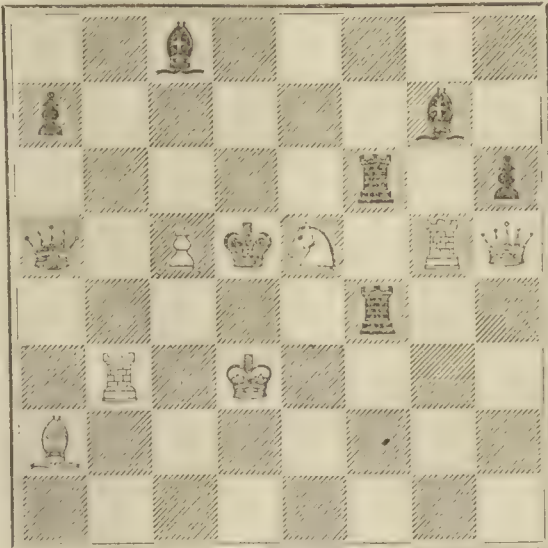
H. F. N.—You will perceive by our solution to day, that Problem No. 473 is perfectly correct.

J. G. L.—I has two easy—very easy—solutions.

YOUNGST.—Full particulars of the forthcoming great Chess Meeting at Manchester may be obtained of the Secretary of the Committee, Mr. A. Fisher, 12, Kennedy street, Manchester.

* * * The length of Signor Centurini's letter compels us to defer the chief part of our answers to Correspondents until next week.

PROBLEM No. 477.
By E. B. C., of Princeton, New Jersey.
BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play, and mate in four moves.

THE "ALLGAIER" GAMBIT.
BY SIGNOR CENTURINI.

(To the Editor of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.)

That branch of the King's Gambit—1. P to K 4th, 2. P to K B 4th, 3. Kt to K B 3rd, 4. P to K R 4th, 5. Kt to K 5th, &c.—which Mr. Kieseritzky has proclaimed "invincible" is called in Italy the "Great Gambit," and this denomination appears to me appropriate, from its indicating the large system of attack and defence, comprehending all the forces in both camps, which the opening demands; and more reasonable than that of the "Allgaier" Gambit, because this German writer had nothing whatever to do with its invention, and has not even illustrated it by any profound or subtle analyses. He confined himself chiefly to the consideration of the variations arising from the first player moving 5. Kt to K 5th; and it is that opening, rather than the one I am now considering, of 5. Kt to K 5th, which ca., with any propriety, be called by his name. (See *The Palamde*, vol. II. (1842), p. 111.) But, let us come to the substance. It is a fact that all the chief writers have examined this gambit more or less, and have proposed a variety of defences, among which that by Mr. Knight (see the *Chess-Player's Hand-Book*, p. 507) excels. This defence, if not perfectly satisfactory, as it was at first thought to be (see "La Reuece," 1851, p. 212, note 2), is nevertheless, of great efficacy. But, in the study of this Gambit, I have been more particularly struck with an idea of Dal Rio, who, at the seventh move of the defence, plays Q to K B 3rd; a line of play, certainly, less solid than brilliant if he had previously defended his K B Pawn with the K Kt instead of the K Rook; for the opening player might then obtain the advantage of the exchange, *ex gr.*—

1. P to K 4th P to K 4th 7. P to Q 4th Q to K B 3rd
2. P to K B 4th P takes P 8. Kt to Q B 3rd P to Q B 3rd
3. Kt to K B 3rd P to K Kt 4th 9. Q Kt to Q 2nd P to Q 3rd
4. P to K R 4th P to K Kt 5th 10. Q B takes P P takes Kt
5. Kt to K 5th P to K R 4th 11. Q B takes P
6. B to Q B 4th Kt to K R 3rd
Winning the exchange.

(See a game between Knight and Slous, in the "Chess Studies," p. 149).

If, however, the second player, at his sixth move, has defended his K B P by moving 6. K R to K R 2nd, I believe he may play 7. Q to K B 3rd, not only without danger, but with great advantage. In proof of which I append a few variations that may prove interesting to those with whom the "Great Gambit" is a favourite:—

GAME I.

WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1. P to K 4th	P to K 4th	8. Kt to Q B 3rd (or P to Q B 3rd as in game II.)	P to Q B 3rd
2. P to K B 4th	P takes P	9. Kt to Q 2nd	P to Q 3rd
3. Kt to K B 3rd	P to K Kt 4th	10. K Kt to Q 3rd	P to K B 6th
4. P to K R 4th	P to K Kt 5th	11. P takes P (best)	P takes P (best) (see Var. A.)
5. Kt to K 5th	P to K R 4th	12. Q Kt to K Kt 3rd	Q takes Q P
6. B to Q B 4th	R to K R 2nd	13. K R to Q Kt 3rd	Q B to K Kt 5th
7. P to Q 4th	Q to K B 3rd		

And Black has a capital attack.

VARIATION A.

11. R to K B sq Q takes K B P 13. B to K Kt 5th Q B to K 3rd
12. R to K B sq Q takes K P With a good game.

GAME II.

(The first seven moves on each side as in the preceding game.)

WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
8. P to Q B 3rd	K B to Q 3rd	10. P takes P (or B to Kt 6th (ch) Var. B)	
9. K Kt to Q 3rd	P to K B 6th	11. K to B sq	

[If White play 11. K to K 2nd, Black responds with 11. Q takes P (ch); and if 11. K to Q 2nd, with 11. — : in each case having the better game.]

And Black has the advantage.

VARIATION B.

10. B to K Kt 5th P takes P 13. Q to K 2nd P to K R 1
11. R to K Kt sq B to K Kt 6th (ch) 14. K B takes Kt R to K Kt 2nd
12. K to Q 2nd Q to K B 6th 15. Q B takes P Q takes B
And Black gains the K R Pawn, with the superior game.

I have ventured, sir, with deference, to submit these observations to your judgment. Should you deem them worthy of insertion in your Journal, it will be a source of pride to me that I have contributed, in however small a degree, to the elucidation of truth, and the amusement of your readers.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Italy, 27th Jan., 1853.

Your sincere and obedient servant.
LOUIS CENTURINI.

CHESS ENIGMAS.

No. 802.—By HERR KLING.

White: K at Q R sq, Rs at Q B 3rd and 7th, Bs at Q 6th and Q Kt 3d, P at Q R 7th.
Black: K at Q R 6th, Q at K Kt sq, R at Q sq, Bs at Q 8th and Q Kt 5th, P at Q 2nd.

White to play, and mate in three moves.

No. 803.—A masterly Stratagem by HERR RIES, of Stuttgart.
White: K at K Kt 3rd, Rs at Q 3rd and Q Kt 2nd, Kts at K R 7th and K 7th, Ps at K Kt 5th and K B 3rd.
Black: K at his 4th, Rs at Q Kt 3rd and Q R 2nd, Kts at Q 2nd and Q R 7th, Ps at K Kt 3rd, K 3rd, and Q B 7th.

White to play, and mate in five moves.

No. 804.—By E. B. C., of Princeton.
White: K at K B 7th, Q at K Kt 4th; Ps at K 7th, Q 6th, and Q Kt 7th.
Black: K at Q B 3rd, Q at Q B 4th, B at Q sq, Kts at Q 4th and Q B sq, Ps at K 4th and Q 4th.

White to play, and mate in three moves.

STAMPED AND UNSTAMPED NEWSPAPERS.

BOW-STREET.—A short time since we called attention to a penny unstamped newspaper being started, entitled the *Potteries Free Press*, and *Weekly Narrative of Current Events*, in order that the Board of Inland Revenue should decide whether it was a newspaper or not. The proprietor having learned that a London agent was summoned to Bow-street for selling the paper, addressed the following to the *Globe* newspaper:—

"STOKE-UPON-TRENT, March 15, 1853.

"Sir—Permit me to correct an error in your paper of yesterday. The Government are proceeding against Mr. Truelove, a vendor of the *Potteries Free Press*—and not against me, who, as the proprietor and publisher, ought to be the person attacked.—Yours, &c., C. DOBSON COLLETT."

Accordingly, on Thursday, Mr. Truelove attended at Bow-street, when the case was heard. The defendant appeared at the instance of the Commissioners of Inland Revenue, under the 6 and 7 William 4, c. 76, charging him with having knowingly and wilfully sold a certain newspaper printed on paper not duly stamped according to law, and called the *Potteries Free Press*, and *Weekly Narrative of Current Events*. The defendant is one of the London agents for the sale of the paper, the leading articles of which invite a Government prosecution of the journal, "in order that a jury of Englishmen might determine what description of news is to be entitled to exemption from the penny stamp."

Mr. Phinn, M.P., appeared in support of the information, and Mr. Humphries Parry represented the defendant.

Mr. Wood, Chairman of the Inland Revenue, Mr. Scholefield, M.P., and Mr. Ricardo, M.P., were present.

Mr. Phinn, in opening the case, drew attention to the 17th section of the Act, which enacted that any person who shall "sell, utter, or expose for sale" an unstamped newspaper, shall forfeit a sum of £20, and he presumed that no person who looked at the paper in question could have any doubt that it came within the class here described, for it contained all the information of an ordinary newspaper. It was true that a recent decision in the Court of Exchequer limited the definition of a newspaper to certain conditions relative to size, interval, and price. The Government and the Stamp-office had always contested that decision, and that application of it; and Baron Parke dissented from the judgment of the other Judges. He did not consider, however, that the question could arise in the present instance, from the obvious difference in the character of the two papers.

James Maddett proved the purchase of a copy of the *Potteries Free Press*, of the 23rd of February, at the shop of the defendant.

Witness, in cross-examination, said: I do not know anything of a paper called the *Athenæum*. I never saw it, or heard of it (a laugh). I know nothing of the *Builder*, either.

Mr. Parry: Nor any other newspaper, I suppose?

Witness: I don't know.

The copies produced having been handed up to his worship, Mr. Phinn stated that this was the case for the Crown.

Mr. H. Parry then addressed the Court, at great length, in condemnation of the conduct of the Inland Revenue in selecting a penny paper, of the description produced, for prosecution, while suffering such periodicals as the *Athenæum*, the *Builder*, and *Racing Times* to escape their notice. The real difficulty of his client had been to ascertain what constituted a newspaper; and in order to try the question he had taken upon himself the responsibility of the present publication. When he spoke of his client, he wished it to be understood that the proprietor of the paper, Mr. Collett, was the real defendant in this matter, and that he had published this paper on his own account, and not in connection with the society with which he was associated. When he resolved upon its publication, he made the officers of the revenue fully acquainted with his intention, and duly transmitted copies of the paper for their inspection, and the assessment of the advertisements. Then, why was he not at once informed that his paper would be prohibited? No proceedings were taken, and several numbers were permitted to be issued. He had never been apprized of the illegality of his paper, although it was duly registered; and, meanwhile, other journals unquestionably containing information of occurrences were proceeding unmolested. The learned counsel then read several extracts from the *Athenæum* and *Builder*, which contained weekly information relative to the fine arts, scientific discoveries &c.; information, he would say, with great deference to the Legislature, of far more interest and public importance than the debates in Parliament. These papers had constantly been brought under the consideration of the Inland Revenue; but they had declined to take notice of them, and had capriciously selected the defendant's paper.

At the close of his address, Mr. Parry called Mr. Joseph Timm, solicitor to the Inland Revenue, to prove that intimation had been duly given to them of the intention to publish the *Potteries Free Press*, copies of which were duly transmitted to the office; and that no prosecutions had ever been instituted against the *Athenæum*, *Chambers's Journal*, or such papers.

Mr. Collett was called to prove that he had published the paper avowedly to test the question, and that he was prepared to discontinue it if a jury should decide against him.

Mr. Henry announced his intention to reserve his decision, and to take time to look through the papers produced. The summons was then adjourned.

THE NATIONAL INSTITUTION.

THE sixth annual exhibition of this, the youngest of our art establishments, opened on Monday, at the Portland Gallery, in Regent-street. The collection consists of 410 pieces, about sixty of which are in water-colours, or crayons. As may be well supposed, where the power of excluding is but sparingly exercised—which, we believe, is the principle the directors here go upon—the display is one of various degrees of merit; but upon the whole it is creditable, whilst in several instances we have works showing considerable talent. Landscapes, of course, largely preponderate, in which the ordinary conventionalities are freely resorted to. The sameness of effect resulting from the indulgence in a prevalent mannerism, which strikes the visitor when passing along the line of these productions, perhaps never struck the several artists before the works left their easels; and if no other good result from the multiplying of art exhibitions, it will at least afford artists an opportunity of contrasting their own errors and shortcomings with those exhibited by their neighbours.

T. T. White has an effective view of "Uri Rothstock, Lake Lucerne." (11). The quaint old town, with its long taper spire, nestles in the hollow in the foreground; the middle is composed of wooded ground, about which hang mountain mists; and in the distance are the Alps.

He has also another pleasing moonlight view of the "Valley of the Handuk" (48).

A. Gilbert attempts, and with creditable success, to realise the glories of a sky such as Claude or Cuyp so wondrously created. The picture (218) is entitled "A Hazy Day"—the eye of the spectator looking over Barmouth Water, in North Wales. The sun is high in the sky; but a light mountain mist intervenes between it and the earth; by which, however, the golden hues are not entirely obstructed, but are refracted, and spread around. This sky—the great difficulty—is really well achieved; and would have been pictorially more effective and grateful to the eye, if the artist had not carried the same yellow tone over greater part of his middle distance and foreground; but had substituted some cooler local tints, which would have served as a frame to the scene, and afforded repose to the eye.

One of the best, if not absolutely the best, Landscapes in the exhibition is a piece of "River Scenery, North Wales" (269)—the joint production of F. W. Holmes and H. B. Willis. The foreground is composed of the flat bed of a mountain stream, which, here reposing from its headlong course, suffers its waters to spread far and wide into the very recesses of an umbrageous dell. This diminutive road-side lake is very artistically carried back far into the picture at the foot of a bold mountain, partially covered with trees, which rises in the midst and crowns the whole. In the foreground, and mid-distance, are some cattle, admirably life-like in character—the white cow in the centre especially—and remarkable for finish of texture and other points of execution. The treatment, indeed, throughout, is highly conscientious.

H. B. Willis has thirteen other landscape subjects, of which we can only now particularise one—a very pleasing "Scene on the Severn—Evening" (50), with a sunset in the distance, and a real English landscape of hill and vale, through which the stream flows leisurely in the middle ground, and in the foreground a tree-clad homestead, into which the struggling rays of the sun make their way here and there.

Conspicuous amongst the other contributors in the landscape department, are Sidney Perry, who has several striking views in North Wales and Cumberland; G. A. Williams, who delights in green lanes and river scenery; A. M. Callum, who has some clever coast bits; and E. Williams, sen., whose "Farrier's Shop" (261), though one of the smallest of his works, is remarkable for quiet merit. It is a real farrier's shop, on a roadside; time evening, the moon in the sky; the smithy's fire is still kept going, whilst a horse and cart wait without to get some of their tackle adjusted. All is very soft and real.

Amongst the historical or history subjects we must give precedence in our notice to a very clever picture, by D. W. Deane (33), "A Monk Instructing Others in the Art of Illumination" (which we engrave). This picture does not depend for its effect upon anything particularly romantic or striking in the incident presented, or upon the development of any strong passion or sentiment; its character is rather that of repose; but in its unaffectedly sincere treatment it shows how much may be done even with the simplest materials by an artist who is content to study



ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH, DONCASTER, RECENTLY DESTROYED BY FIRE.

truth—the truth of nature—and to represent it without exaggeration or trick. The faces of the four monks—he who is teaching the art of illuminating missals, and those who are looking on—are remarkable for manly gravity, and for the interest with which they watch the progress of a process in which their fraternity were once so extensively engaged. The figure of the youngest, who rests his hand on the back of the chair of his next-door neighbour, and stoops forward wrapped in admiration, is full of spirit, and is the principal life of the picture; the other two, his elders, look on with equal interest, but less of excitement, marked in their features. The features and hands of all are painted with great precision and correctness. A subdued light pervades the monastic apartment, in the *chiaroscuro* of which the outline of some of the mural decorations are discerned. Indeed, throughout, the colouring is mellow and harmonious, perfectly in keeping with the character of the subject.

ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH, DONCASTER.

THIS fine ecclesiastical structure (the destruction of which was illustrated and described in the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS for March 5) was of the Perpendicular period of architecture. The noble tower, at the intersection of the nave and transepts, was of excellent proportions, and pure and effective details. The west window, of nine lights, was also a fine example of the style; and the north transept had a seven-light window, of very beautiful arrangement. The nave piers were octagonal, and massive and simple; as were also the central piers supporting the tower. These latter had richly-foliated capitals. The chancel contained some interesting remains of an Early English structure, parts of which have been exposed by the fire, and remain even now comparatively perfect amidst the general ruin.

The dimensions of the Church were, internally, from east to west, extreme length, 153 ft.; extreme width in the transept, from north to south, 85 ft. 6 in.; width of nave and aisles, 67 ft. 2 in.; height of the tower to the apex of pinnacles, 140 ft.; height of the nave from floor to paneled ceiling, 52 ft. The Church was built of magnesian limestone, upon which the fire necessarily acted most injuriously; and thus accelerated the entire destruction of the building in a comparatively short space of time. The origin of the conflagration is ascribed by Mr. Braidwood to the over-heating of the flues. The probable cost of an entire restoration of the Church will reach £30,000. The subscription list for this purpose is headed by the Corporation of Doncaster with the munificent sum of £5000; and the sum already subscribed is nearly £10,000.

We understand that Mr. Weightman, of the firm of Hadfield, Weightman, and Goldie, possesses accurate measurements of the tower of the Church.

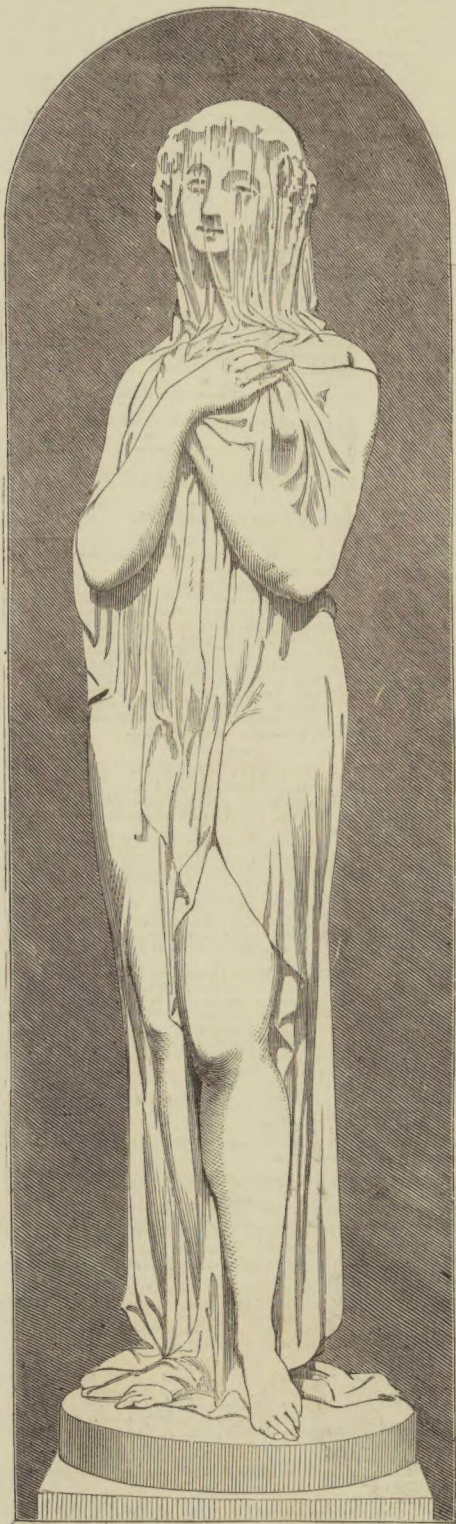


"A MONK INSTRUCTING OTHERS IN THE ART OF ILLUMINATION."—PAINTED BY D. W. DEANE.—EXHIBITION OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTION OF FINE ARTS.

FINE ARTS.

"HELEN VEILED." BY C. P. BACON.

THE only work of sculpture of any importance in the exhibition at the British Institution is the "Helen Veiled before Paris," executed in marble, by C. P. Bacon. The principal feature about it is the veiling of the face, after the manner of the "Veiled Vestal" and the "Veiled Slave in the Market-place," which attracted so much admiration from



MARBLE STATUE OF "HELEN" VEILED, BY C. P. BACON.

the indiscriminating multitude in the Austrian Room at the Great Exhibition of 1851; and this wonderful trick Mr. Bacon has accomplished with a success fully equal to that displayed in the works in question. The figure is gracefully conceived, though perhaps a little stiff as to the outline and draping; the execution careful and finished.

NOOKS AND CORNERS OF OLD ENGLAND.

HEIDEGGER'S HOUSE, AT RICHMOND.

Richmond is abundantly stored with courtly memories. Although nought of the Tudor palace remains but a single picturesque arch, there are many minor evidences of its kingly residence. The old

church is eloquent with higher claims upon our respect, in its memorials of poets, philosophers, painters, and actors; and the graves of genius are everywhere thick around us. But there is another class of celebrities which speak more directly of regal Richmond in its records of gay wits and officers of the Court; reminding one of Theodore Hook's delicious hoax of Richmond being so courtly a place, and so completely under the influence of State etiquette, that everything here is called after the functionaries of the palace: what are called cheesecakes elsewhere, are here called maids of honour; a capon is called a lord chamberlain; a goose is a lord steward; a roast pig is a master of the horse; a pair of ducks, grooms of the bedchamber; a gooseberry tart, a gentleman usher of the black rod; and so on.

Two centuries ago, there was buried here Joseph Taylor, who was instructed by Shakspeare to play *Hamlet*, and who was appointed Master of the Revels to King Charles I. Another person of kindred note lies in a vault in the churchyard—John James Heidegger, who was Master of the Revels to George I. and II., and had a house in "Maid of Honour-row," on Richmond-green, where he died September 4, 1749. Heidegger was born at Zurich in 1659, and came to England in 1708; when, obtaining the direction of the Italian Opera, and its masquerades, the ingenious Swiss (who, by the way, wrote operas with wonderful facility), contrived to derive from it a fortune of £5000 per annum. The lover of pleasant gossip will, perhaps, remember Heidegger's magnificent masquerade at the opera-house, described in "Mist's Weekly Journal," Feb. 5, 1718. When Heidegger grew rich, he took on lease the manor-house at Barn Elms, which stood in a small paddock at some distance from the Thames; and here he got up the famous surprise *fête* of light out of darkness, at which the second Guelph "laughed heartily."

Heidegger was extremely liberal to artists for the opera; and he commissioned his best scene-painter to decorate his house after his removal to Richmond. Under his direction they painted the panels of the principal room, or hall, with a series of views in Italy and of Heidegger's native country, Switzerland, including the Falls of the Rhine, at Schaffhausen, and the curious bridge at Basle, which are extremely accurate: the whole are beautifully executed; and, although painted some 130 years since, they are in perfect preservation; the house having been in the possession of persons of taste, who did not object to the appropriation of a large room, that the pictures might remain intact. The general ornamentation of the room is likewise pleasing.

Heidegger died at the great age of ninety. He was noted for being the ugliest man of his day, which earned his features' commemoration by Mrs. Salmon, of wax-work celebrity. However, the Master of the Revels left a more enduring fame than many of Mrs. Salmon's beauties could boast of: he was a benevolent, hospitable, and charitable man, and made his way in the world to wealth and good society; and any memorial of so estimable a character is worthy of record and respect.

HAYMARKET THEATRE.—MR. WEBSTER'S FAREWELL ADDRESS.

ON Monday evening Mr. Webster took his final benefit at this theatre. After the performance of "The Pretty Girls of Stillberg," which was the third piece of the evening, Mr. Webster delivered the following address to the audience:

Ladies and Gentlemen,—No words can express to you how honoured and flattered I feel at this numerous assemblage of friends around me on this my last appearance in the character of lessee and manager of the little theatre in the Haymarket. My final official duty is to offer you a grateful farewell. Having grown in good opinion as an actor, it emboldened me to task your patience as a manager; and, in catering for your amusement, your patronage has given me no cause to regret the experiment—though I began without the assistance of a single farthing beyond what I had saved by rigid economy out of a very small income. I found this theatre in the lowest possible state, when compared with other establishments, and incapable of being kept open more than the four summer months, when the leviathans—Drury-lane and Covent garden—closed; but, feeling that patronage was not confined to period or place, I endeavoured to take John Bull by the horns, and persevered till the leviathans gave way, and this favoured spot became the only constant home of the drama for three years, without closing once a night; and I should have continued to pursue that course, had not the principal performers complained of want of relaxation; consequently I have since made what are termed seasons, averaging about ten months each. During the sixteen years I have held power here—the longest leasehold in London on record—I have had many very trying political and other not dramatic influences to contend with; but no person employed by me has ever felt them, either in manner or money; and I can conscientiously state, in all my transactions as man and manager, I can leave an honourable and honest name to my children. I am sure you will excuse this warmth of egotism on a point so dear to me. A manager's life, ladies and gentlemen, is not a bed of roses. With the mind ever on the stretch for your pleasure, and his physical powers endlessly employed in carrying out the mental efforts of others, who would induce the thoughtless to laugh at scars who never felt the wound of such a position, though they have assisted to barb the arrow. To authors I find I have paid £30,000, if not more. 'Tis said, 'Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown,' but far more uneasy lies his head begirt with the tinsel crown of theatrical sovereignty, where every popular favourite is a viceroy over him, and where the ways and means are not compulsory, but solely dependent on the will and pleasure of our sovereign the public. However, if my labour in the cause of the drama, which has been a labour of love, has met with the approval of you, my tried and valued friends, it will not have been "Love's labour lost." Those who remember this theatre when I first took it, sixteen years ago (of course I exclude the ladies from so long a remembrance), must perceive the extensive alterations, and I think I may venture to say improvements, that I have accomplished during my tenancy: abrupt angles have given way to curves, and my circles, especially from their present occupancy, appear graceful in the extreme. I have backed the pit, and could, in another sense, for respectability, against any pit in London. I have stalled off what was originally the orchestra, sometimes discoursing sweet sounds, though sweeter music to my ear has supplied its place in the audible approbation of my exertions, as, to quote the words of Triplet, "author, manager, and actor too." The proscenium I have widened eleven feet, and entirely remodelled it, and introduced gas for the fee of £500 a year, and the presentation of the centre chandelier to the proprietors; and, behind the curtain, money has not been spared to render the stage as perfect for dramatic representation as its limited means will furnish. In fact, I have expended, with no ultimate advantage to myself, on this property over £12,000, besides paying more than £60,000 in rent; yet I have met with anything but a generous consideration in return by the party most interested in the result. I trust my successor, John Baldwin Buckstone, my old friend and brother actor, will, as a brother manager, experience a kinder treatment; at all events, I am sure he will deserve it, as honestly as he will

zealously endeavour to merit your encouragement. Having passed from the past to the future, you will, perhaps, pardon me if I inform you that I have not turned my back on the Haymarket, without knowing, with more certainty than Coriolanus did, that there is a world elsewhere,—namely, the Theatre Royal Adelphi, peopled with imaginative passages of life, serious and comic, where I hope the exclusive devotion of my energies before and behind the curtain will insure me the gratification of seeing many of the old familiar faces that have so often gladdened my eyesight and heart here. I will, at least, with the blessing of health, deserve the favour, both in the quantity and the quality of the material I shall present for your inspection. I am bound to say that that successful establishment has been the mainstay of my management, and, with my previous successes here, placed me independent of the world. Ladies and gentlemen, I fear I have been too diffuse, but I am about to part suddenly from old friends. To the performers who have served under my banner I publicly tender my warmest thanks for their cordial co-operation at all times and under all circumstances. To the press generally I beg to acknowledge my sense of deep obligation; and, in



MR. B. WEBSTER.—DRAWN BY BAUGNIOT.

bidding you farewell on this stage, I do so with the most heartfelt gratitude, and with the sincerest wishes for your happiness and prosperity. Ladies and gentlemen, God bless you!

This address was deservedly applauded throughout; and the speaker was rewarded at the conclusion with three supplementary cheers, and various bouquets were thrown upon the stage. The story told in it is decidedly that of sincere and honest effort, and the hero of it merits especial notice.

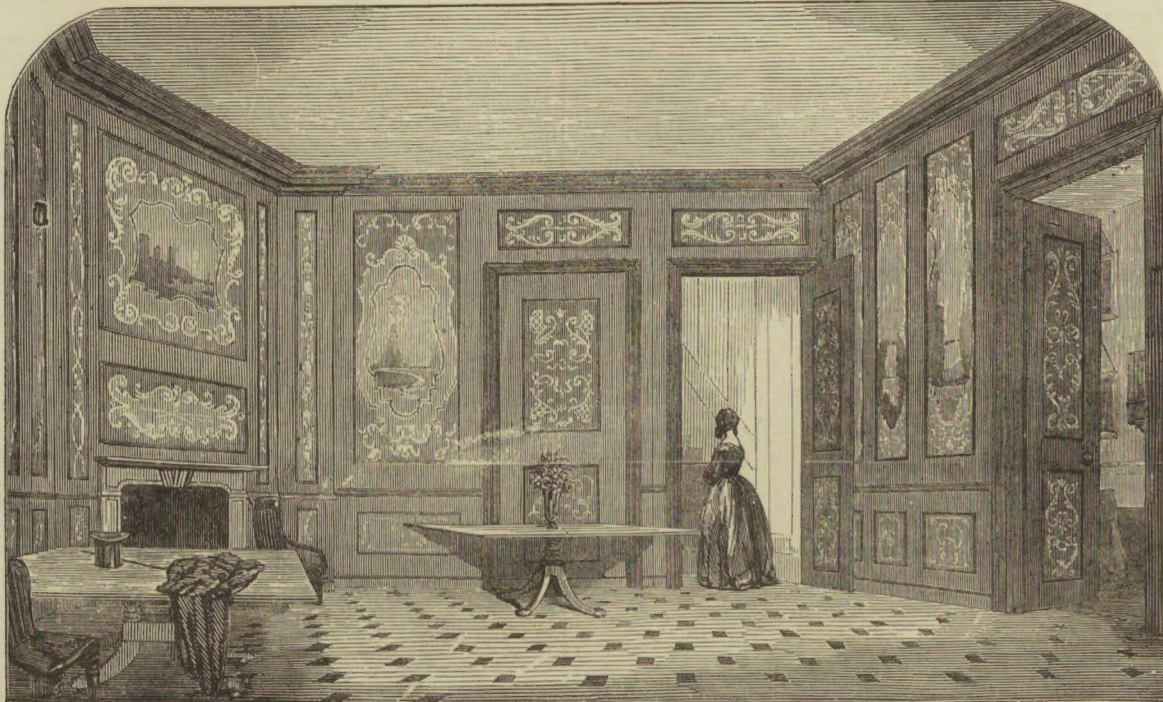
After the performance on Monday, the company of the Haymarket Theatre did only due honour to Mr. Webster, by presenting him with a salver and loving cup. Mr. Buckstone was entrusted with this pleasing duty, and delivered on the occasion an eloquent speech; which was responded to with delicacy and feeling by Mr. Webster. A laurel wreath, to which was attached a silver medal, had been thrown upon the stage—a grateful tribute, which was also presented to Mr. Webster, jointly by Madame Celeste and Mr. Manby. The inscription on the salver is as follows:—



TESTIMONIAL PRESENTED TO MR. B. WEBSTER.

This Salver, together with a Loving Cup, was presented to Benjamin Webster, Esq., by all the members of the Haymarket Company, and others who have fulfilled engagements with him at the Little Theatre including the band, artists, and every servant on the establishment, as an affectionate token of regard and respect, on his retirement from the management of that house after a long and honourable career of sixteen years.—March 14th, 1853.

Mr. Benjamin Webster is the descendant of an ancient and respectable house, his father having been the representative, by the mother's side, of the Buckes, who were engaged in the battle of Bosworth-field and retired with the Duke of Norfolk into Yorkshire. There are large estates at Sheffield which formerly belonged to the family, and bear their name to the present day. One of that name, wrote "A Vindication of the Life of Richard III." The work is quoted by Walpole in his "Historic Doubts." The immediate parents of Mr. Webster are thoroughly Yorkshire: his father was from Sheffield, his mother from Leeds. He was born on the 3rd Sept., 1800, at Bath. His father was in the army, and young Benjamin was designed for the navy. But his father, after long experience of his own service, in Ireland and the West Indies, saw that there was no chance of promotion, in times of peace, for his son in the naval profession. Music and dancing were next the choice of the youth; but these were soon exchanged for histrionic performances, for which he had already shown an instinct by constructing, at the age of twelve, a puppet-theatre, for which he had also prepared a pantomime. Driven, at length, from home, by the fact of his father's second marriage, young Webster found refuge in the Cheltenham Theatre; the manager of which engaged him at a salary of twenty-five shillings a week, for all sorts of utility business; but he made his first bow as an actor at Warwick, as *Thessalus*, in "Alexander the Great." Here he was introduced to Rowland Hill, the celebrated preacher, who sought to induce him to leave the stage for the pulpit. He proceeded with the company to Lichfield, Walsall, and Birmingham. At Walsall, his career as *Harlequin* was in danger of coming to a premature conclusion. A scene through which he was to leap had been placed within a yard of a brick wall, against which he would inevitably have dashed his brains out, had



PAINTED HALL IN THE HOUSE OF HEIDEGGER, AT RICHMOND

he not been saved by Mr. Betty, the young Roscius. Mr. Webster's next manager was the strolling Irishman, Wilson, with whom he acted in an old barn, at Bromsgrove, near Birmingham. When nearly starving, Mr. Talbot, the conductor of the Belfast Theatre, came to his rescue, and first discovered the comic vein of Mr. Webster's talent. At length, we find him in England, at the Coburg (now the Victoria); and, after a provincial tour, at the English Opera. Our own first acquaintance with him was at Drury-lane, for which theatre he was engaged by Mr. Ellison, and where he appeared, in 1825, as *Pompey*, the Clown, in "Measure for Measure"—a part which he studied in three hours (vice Mr. Harley), and acted with great success. His first appearance at the Haymarket was under Mr. Morris, in 1829, in the farce of "Lodgings for Single Gentlemen." He continued attached to the house until he became its lessee, in 1837. It was not until 1844 that he became lessee of the Adelphi.

Mr. Webster's career as conductor of the Haymarket commenced with Mr. Macready in *Hamlet*; in connexion with whom, also, he brought out Mr. S. Knowles's revival of Beaumont and Fletcher's "Maid's Tragedy," under the title of "The Bridal." This was Mr. Webster's introduction to the starring system, on which he depended until Mr. Macready's retirement from the stage. Poor Power, Miss Ellen Tree, Mr. Charles Kean, Mr. and Mrs. Mathews, Mrs. Nisbett, and the two Cushmans, in this way successively appeared; and, during each separate engagement, ruled the business and destinies of the theatre. Meanwhile, by Mr. Macready and the Mathews, great and powerful experiments were made with the two patent houses—schemes which ultimately failed in the hands of all; and their conductors were glad again to find refuge at the little theatre, the fortunes of which survived those of the great ones. A great number of important new pieces were thus produced at the Haymarket; among which may be named "The Love Chase," "The Athenian Captive," "The Maid of Mariendorp," "The Sea Captain," "Glencoe," "Money," "Nina Sforza," "The Rose of Arragon," "Marriage," "Old Heads and Young Hearts," "Time works Wonders," "The Beggar on Horseback," "The School for Scheming," "The Heart and the World," "The Wife's Secret," "Strathmore," and "Woman's Heart." All these were pieces of the first class and pretension, and many of them such in merit. An infinite number of less legitimate pieces also might be catalogued; including "The White Horse of the Peppers," "Tom Noddy's Secret," "Single Life," "The Roused Lion," "Catpaw," "Mind your own business," "Masks and Faces," &c. The management itself closed with the public production of Sir Bulwer Lytton's comedy "Not so bad as we seem." Such are some of the dramatic productions on which Mr. Webster spent on the average about £2000 a year. No other manager during the same period has bestowed so much theatrical patronage on the living drama. The errors of judgment in these extensive literary dealings have been remarkably few, and the pecuniary arrangements have uniformly been on a liberal scale. In the latter days of his management, Mr. Webster has laboured under the difficulty of obtaining a star sufficiently attractive, and the exceedingly powerful competition of a rival establishment. Time, it would seem had not been allowed, him to recover from the habits of the starring system, and he naturally suffered from the inevitable reaction consequent on its extinction. A new system had altogether to be initiated, for which Mr. Webster was either not prepared or inclined. Such a system also would require a concentration of talent and attention; this he preferred to bring, in all its force, to bear upon one single stage; and wisely preferred the Adelphi as the arena for new experiments, and where, unquestionably, his usual good fortune will attend Mr. Webster's efforts—that success which is commanded because deserved.

The Portrait of Mr. Webster, engraved upon the preceding page, is from a large drawing upon stone, by M. Baugniot, published by McLean, Haymarket.

PROVINCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

THE CONSERVATIVE LAND SOCIETY IN YORKSHIRE.—This society having been invited to extend their operations to Yorkshire, a deputation visited Leeds, Wakefield, and Bradford, on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday week. The deputation at each place was cordially received, and the statements were listened to with attention and approval. It was intimated that steps would be taken to purchase Yorkshire estates, and that the committee was prepared to undertake, if desired, land purchases in almost every county in England.

STEAM-CARRIAGES ON COMMON ROADS.—Notwithstanding the many failures of the steam-carriage on common roads, it has again made its appearance between Bath and Bristol; and this time, owing to several most ingenious improvements in the machinery employed, has thoroughly realised the expectations of the projectors. The rate of travelling is said to be about twelve miles an hour, and the cost is most trifling—sixpence for the journey.

EXTRAORDINARY BLAST OF ROCK.—An explosion has taken place at the Cyfarthfa quarry, and the extraordinary quantity of fifteen yards of solid rock was shaken by 14 cwt. of powder. It is stated that not less than 15,000 tons of solid rock were separated at the time. A very large party assembled to see the blast. The bore was twenty-four feet in depth, and four feet in diameter. No accident happened.

CONVEYANCE OF MAILS IN GREAT BRITAIN.—The Post-office authorities have, at the present time, to pay for mails being conveyed over nearly 20,000 miles of railway in Great Britain daily; and in addition to this they have to pay for the conveyance of mails over common roads in mail coaches and mail carts a distance of nearly 4000 miles daily.

SCHOOL SHIP IN THE MERSEY.—The Lords of the Admiralty have acceded to the wishes of the committee of the Soho-street Ragged Schools, in Liverpool, and will place a vessel at their disposal, to be moored in the river for the reception of boys, who are to be trained for sailors.

AUSTRALIAN VESSELS FROM THE MERSEY.—On Sunday three vessels left Liverpool—the celebrated *Marco Polo*, for Melbourne; the *Earl of Charlemont*, for Port Phillip; and the *Sabrina*, for Perth, South Australia; the former with 648 passengers and £90,000 in specie. Various wagers have been made on the passages of the *Antelope* (screw steamer), *Marco Polo*, and *Earl of Charlemont*. There is one fact with reference to the *Marco Polo*'s sailing on Sunday worth recording. It is her captain's favourite day. Upon his former unrivalled voyage, he left on a Sunday, crossed the line on a Sunday, sighted the Cape on a Sunday, and arrived at Melbourne on a Sunday. On his voyage home, he left Melbourne on a Sunday, sighted the Cape on a Sunday, re-crossed the line on Sunday, and arrived in the Mersey on Sunday.

FORGING CHECKS ON BANKS.—Peck (as we stated in our last) was charged with having forged a cheque for £147 7s. 6d. On Saturday he was committed for trial; but, in the course of the proceeding incident to this, it has been discovered that Peck has been carrying on a series of forgeries on the banks of Birmingham for some time past.

COLLIERY EXPLOSION.—A dreadful explosion occurred on Saturday evening last in the Risca Vale, near Newport, Monmouthshire. The "seam" of coal is called the Black Vein, is the property of John Russell, Esq., and has for some time past principally supplied the West Indian Mail steamers. It is the same "seam" in which, some seven years ago, between thirty and forty lives were lost. The pit had been examined in the morning, but there was no indication of anything wrong. By this sad accident seven young men and boys were suddenly hurried into eternity, and thirteen more or less injured, so that four of the unfortunate men are not expected to survive the frightful burnings from which they are now suffering.

THE ACCIDENT ON THE BOLTON RAILWAY.—After a long investigation, and several adjournments, the jury have given a verdict to this effect:—"That the deceased, Thomas Croston, was guilty of manslaughter, through driving at excessive speed; that the engine was not a proper one; that the permanent way was defective and unsafe; that the general arrangements of the company are not conducive to public safety; and that the management of the Bolton and Preston district of the line merits strong condemnation." We regret to add to this melancholy accident, that Mrs. Horrocks died on Friday, the 11th inst.; and that Betsy McCartney (Mr. Harbours' nursemaid) died on Tuesday last; both were injured by the railway accident, and both died in the Manchester Infirmary.

ASSAULT ON JUDGE PERRIN.—At the Talce Assizes, a prisoner named Connor, was sentenced by Mr. Justice Perrin to a year's imprisonment for robbery. The moment his Lordship had concluded the sentence the fellow threw a stone of two or three pounds' weight at the head of the Judge, who fortunately observed the action and bent forward. The stone struck him, but not heavily, on the shoulder.

EXPLOSION AT THE BRIGHTON RAILWAY.—A serious accident took place on Thursday morning, at the terminus at Brighton. At about ten minutes to seven, the engine of the short train, which leaves Brighton for Little Hampton daily at 7.15, and was standing attached to its train, exploded suddenly, and the various parts of the machinery were driven through the roof of the shed. The driver, the fireman, and a fitter, who were upon the engine, were killed, and their bodies were found at some distance from the engine. Although some of the passengers were seated in the train, they all escaped without the slightest injury. The directors have too much cause to believe that the accident arose from the driver having screwed down the safety-valve. The matter will be investigated without delay.

ROASTING BY GAS.—Two trials have recently taken place at the Royal Naval School, with an apparatus manufactured by Messrs. Smith and Phillips, under the superintendence of Mr. Soyer, which determines the question on the merits and economy of roasting by gas. The result of the first trial was, that 36 legs of mutton, weighing 288 lbs., were roasted at a cost of 1s. 2d. At a second trial, equal weights (184 lbs.) were cooked; and it was found that the saving by gas, against the usual mode, was—Meat, at 6d. per lb., 6s. 6d.; dripping, at 5d. per lb., 5s.; and gravy, at 1s. 6d. per lb., 4s. 13d.; making a total of 11s. 0d. In order to show the advantage of the system, a rump steak was broiled by Mr. Soyer, before the company, who partook of it, and who declared it was perfection, and free from all odour.

THE TOBACCO TRADE.—The Customs authorities being of opinion that all tobacco (except cigars), and also snuff detained for having been illegally imported, and for which no application has been made by the parties within six months; and all tobacco and snuff (except cigars) brought to the Queen's warehouse for the duties, if not cleared within one year, should be destroyed, they have directed their officers to govern themselves accordingly in future in the matter, observing that it is not intended to disturb the practice which exists with reference to the 35th sec. of the Act 8th and 9th Vict., cap. 86, and the 16th section of Act 8th and 9th Vict., cap. 91, relative to surplus stores of vessels warehoused.

MONETARY TRANSACTIONS OF THE WEEK.

(From our City Correspondent.)

Notwithstanding that a fair average money business has been transacted in Consols during the present week, the market for those securities has been by no means active, and prices have had a downward tendency. The leading cause of the decline is the great increase in the demand for money for commercial purposes, and the probability that the rates of discount in Lombard-street and elsewhere will shortly be on the advance.

The accounts at hand from Australia are very satisfactory. The produce of the mines is estimated at £1,000,000 sterling per month; and it is understood that nearly £16,000,000 has now been raised. From the colony, £1,300,000 in gold has arrived since we last wrote; and we understand that upwards of £2,500,000 is now on passage to England. Shipments of gold to some extent have been made to the Continent; yet it is evident that the returns from the Bank of England, during the next two or three weeks, will show a steady increase in the stock of bullion.

The Chancellor's scheme for the reduction of the interest on Exchequer Bills has been successfully carried out. Very few parties have presented their Bills for payment, and the premium has steadily improved.

On Monday the Three per Cent Consols—for Money—were officially quoted at 100 to 100½; and for the Account, 100½ to 100½. India Bonds were marked 47s. to 45s.; and Exchequer Bills, 10s. to 14s. premium. Scarcely any change took place in prices on Tuesday; but, on Wednesday, they exhibited signs of weakness. On Thursday the market was very inactive, and the Three per Cent Consols—Money—were 100 99½; ditto, for the Account, 99½ to 100. India Bonds, £1000, were 40s.; ditto, under £1000, 45s. premium. Exchequer Bills, June, marked 8s. to 13s.; ditto, March, 11s. premium.

An improved business has been reported in miscellaneous securities. Australian Agricultural have been done at 112 to 115; Peel River Land and Mineral, 8 to 8½ prem.; Van Diemen's Land, 22½ to 23½; South Australian, 60 to 62; North British Australian, 2½ to 2½ prem.; Scottish Australian Investment, 2½ to 2½ prem.; Australian Coal Mining, 4 to 4½ prem.; New South Wales Coal and Intercolonial Steam, 4 to 4½ prem.; Nova Scotia Mining, 1½ to 2; Union Bank of Australia, 7½ to 7½; Bank of Australasia, 9½ to 9½; Oriental Bank, 54 to 56; London Chartered Bank of Australia, 2½ to 3 prem.; English, Scottish, and Australian, 2½ to 3 prem.; Bank of India, China, and Australia, 2½ to 2½ prem.; Great Nugget Vein, 3½ to 3½ prem.; Port Phillip, 1 to 1½ prem.; Colonial Gold, 2½ to 3½ prem.; Australian, 2 to 2½ prem.; Australasian, 1½ to 2 prem.; Bank of British North America, 5½; Commercial Bank of London, 32; Provincial of Ireland, 4½; East and West India Docks, 167½; St. Katharine Docks, 99½ to 100½; Victoria Docks (£4 paid), 6½; Crystal Palace (£6 paid), 6½; General Screw Shipping (£12 paid), 12. Shares in the Crystal Palace of France have marked 2½; General Steam Navigation Company, 31; Peninsular and Oriental Steam, 85 to 84; Royal Mail Steam, 82½ to 81; South Australian Land, 52 to 53.

Foreign Stocks have commanded a steady market. The reforms in the Customs tariff, in Mexico, are expected to lead to beneficial results to the creditors here. The money now on hand to meet the dividends is \$2,000,000 dollars; and we understand that 70,000 dollars, balance of the cotton licenses, will be received by the next steamer. Greek Bonds have been in request. Spanish securities have sold freely. The proposal for converting the Three per Cent Deferred Debt will be opened at Madrid on the 30th inst. The dividends on the Danish Three per Cent, the Brazilian Five per Cent, and on the Peruvian Loan, are advertised for payment on and after the 1st proximo. Transactions have taken place in Austrian Stock at 99; Buenos Ayres, 62 to 64; Danish Three per Cent, 85; Greek Bonds, ex Coupons, 8½; Spanish Committee's Certificates, 8½; Swedish Loan, 1½ dis.; Turkish Scrip, 1½ prem.; Venezuela, 16.

The Continental exchanges continue unfavourable—gold being 0.38 per cent dearer in Paris than in London, and 0.47 per cent higher at Hamburg than here. Upon New York they are in favour of England by 0.42 per cent.

On Thursday, Brazilian Five per Cent were 103½; ditto Four-and-a-Half per Cent, 98½; Danish Three per Cent, 85½; Grenada, ex Dec., 1849, 23½; Mexican Three per Cent, 26½ to 26½; Peruvian Scrip, 4½ prem.; ditto, new, Deferred, 6½; Portuguese Four per Cent, for the Account, 38½; Sardinian Five per Cent, 98½; Spanish Three per Cent, 49½; ditto, new, Deferred, 25½ to 25½; ditto, Tassive, 6½; Spanish Committee's Certificate, not funded, 8½; Turkish Loan, 1 to 1½ prem.; Dutch Four per Cent, 99½.

There has been a very inactive market for Railway Shares, the prices of which have not been supported, owing, we believe, to a very large supply having been for some time on sale. The following are the official closing money prices on Thursday:—

ORDINARY SHARES AND STOCKS.—Aberdeen, 30; Caledonian, 64½; Chester and Holyhead, 22½; Eastern Counties, 13; Eastern Union, 13; and C., 7½; Edinburgh, Perth, and Dundee, 34; Great Northern Stock, 81½; Ditto, B. Stock, 123; Great Western, 91; Lancaster and Carlisle, 94 ex div.; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 76 ex div.; Ditto, Fifths, 10½ ex div.; Leeds, Northern, 16½; London and Blackwall, 9; London and North-Western, 119; Ditto, Fifths, 14½; Ditto, £10 Shares, 2½; London and South-Western, 91; Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire, 20½; Midland, 7½; North British, 36; Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton, 49; Scottish Central, 102; Scottish Midland, 64½; South-Eastern, 78; York, Newcastle, and Berwick, 70; Ditto, Extensions, 12½; York and North Midland, 50½.

MINING SHARES.—Aberdeen, 4½; Eastern Counties, Six per Cent Stock, 15; Great Northern, Four-and-a-Half per Cent, 24; Londonderry and Enniskillen, 13½ ex div.; Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire, Quarter Shares, 9; South-Eastern, 26½; Waterford and Kilkenny, 2½ to 3.

FOREIGN.—Charleroi and Erquelines, 13½; Great Indian Peninsula, 7; Great Western of Canada, 16; Luxembourg, 7½; Do. Railway, 4½; Madras, 6½; Northern of France, 26½; Paris and Lyons, 28½; Paris and Strasbourg, 33½; Southern of France, 9; Upper India Scrip, 1½ prem.; Western of France, 20½ ex div.; Western of Switzerland, 1½; Zealand, 24.

Mining Shares have ruled tolerably steady. On Thursday, Agua Fria were 1½ to 2½; Anglo-Australian Gold, 1½; Australian, 6½; Australian Freehold, 1½; Aye Maria, 1; Baden, 1; Imperial Brazilian, 5½; Do. Coates and Cuaba, 4½; Colbre Copper, 48; English and Australian Copper Smelting Company, 4½; Linares, 14; Mexican and South American, 8½; Nouveau Monde, 2½; Port Phillip, 2 to 1½; United Mexican, 6½; West Mariposa, 1.

THE MARKETS.

CORN EXCHANGE.—Notwithstanding that the arrivals of English wheat during the present week, coastwise and by land carriage, have been on a very limited scale, and in bad condition, the day and for all kinds has ruled heavy; and in some instances prices have given way 1s. per quarter without effecting clearances. Foreign wheats, landed, have changed hands slowly, on former terms. Floating cargoes, the arrivals of which have materially increased, have fallen in value fully 1s. per quarter. Malt barley has sold slowly, at late rates; but grinding and distilling sorts have receded 1s. per quarter. We have no change to notice in the value of malt. Oats have been held on former terms. Beans, peas, and flour have been rather lower to purchase.

English.—Wheat, Essex and Kent, red, 42s. to 52s.; ditto, white, 43s. to 50s.; Norfolk and Suffolk, red, 37s. to 52s.; ditto, white, 40s. to 55s.; rye, 28s. to 31s.; grinding malt, 25s. to 28s.; distilling ditto, 27s. to 30s.; malted ditto, 30s. to 32s.; Lincoln and Norfolk malt, 22s. to 25s.; brown ditto, 48s. to 54s.; Kingston and Ware, 57s. to 60s.; Chevalier, 61s. to 63s.; Yorkshire and Lincolnshire feed oats, 17s. to 21s.; potato ditto, 20s. to 21s.; rough and cork, black, 16s. to 19s.; ditto, white, 17s. to 21s.; tick beans, new, 34s. to 35s.; ditto, old, 36s. to 38s.; grey peas, 36s. to 39s.; mangle, 33s. to 35s.; white, 36s. to 38s.; boilers, 27s. to 40s. per quarter. Town-made flour, 41s. to 46s.; Suffolk, 34s. to 35s.; Stockton and Yorkshire, 34s. to 36s. per 280 lb. Foreign: American flour, 25s. to 26s. per barrel; French, 36s. to 42s. per sack.

Seeds.—Fine clover seed is steady, and quite as dear as last week. Linseed is dull, and lower to purchase. In casks, very little is doing. Prices are drooping.—Linseed, English, sowing, 50s. to 56s.; Baltic, crushing, 40s. to 48s.; Mediterranean and Odessa, 48s. to 52s.; hempseed, 57s. to 61s. per quarter; Coriander, 9s. to 12s. per cwt. Brown mustard-seed, 7s. to 9s.; white ditto, 7s. to 10s.; and lard, 4s. 6d. to 5s. 0d. per bushel. English rapeseed, new, 22½ to 23½ per last of ten quarters. Linseed cakes, English, 49s. 6d. to 51s. 6d.; ditto, foreign, 47 10s. to 51 0s. per ton. Rape cakes, 45 0s. to 45 5s. per ton. Canary, 38s. to 42s. per quarter.

Bread.—The prices of wheaten bread in the metropolis are from 7d. to 8d.; of household ditto, 5d. to 6d., per 4 lbs. loaf.

Imperial Weekly Average.—Wheat, 45s. 8d.; barley, 31s. 5d.; oats, 18s. 6d.; rye, 30s. 9d.; beans, 34s. 4d.; peas, 32s. 6d.

The Six Weeks' Average.—Wheat, 45s. 5d.; barley, 31s. 5d.; oats, 18s. 4d.; rye, 30s. 8d.; beans, 34s. 6d.; peas, 31s. 10d.

Duties.—Wheat, 1s.; barley, 1s.; oats, 1s.; rye, 1s.; beans, 1s.; peas, 1s.

7th.—Public sales of 11,000 packages have been held this week. The biddings ruled heavily, and 2,600 chests sold at, in some instances, an advance in the value of green teas of 4s. 7d. to 1d. per lb. Up to Saturday last duty was paid on 7,005,639 lbs., against 8,457,122 ditto, in 1852. Privately the market is steady, at full prices. The total shipments

from China, to the 20th January, were 49,000,000 lbs., against 50,200,000 ditto, to the same date last year.

Sugar.—All kinds have commanded a steady, though not to say active, inquiry, at full prices. Fine yellow Barbadoes has realised 35s. to 40s.; fine Demerara, 38s. to 40s.; Demerara, 37s. to 40s.; fine yellow Mauritius, 38s. to 39s.; fine brown, 36s. per cwt. Floating cargoes of foreign have sold steadily, at extreme quotations. Refined goods continue firm, at from 45s. 6d. to 48s. per cwt. The total clearances to the 12th inst., were 1,149,355 cwt., against 1,219,484 ditto, in 1852.

Coffee.—The Dutch auctions having passed off steadily, on higher terms, our market is somewhat active, and the quotations have an upward tendency—good ordinary native Ceylon having realised 4s. to 4s. 6d. per cwt.

Rice.—The demand is confined to immediate wants, at previous currencies.

Fruit.—Currants are in fair request, at full prices. In other kinds of fruit very little is doing.

Provisions.—Irish butter is dull in sale, and late rates are barely supported. Foreign quantities command very little attention. English are lower to purchase. Fine weekly Dorset, 100s. to 101s.; middling, 50s. to 94s. per cwt.; fresh, 10s. to 12s. per dozen lbs. Bacon is 2s. 6d. dearer, with an active inquiry. Waterford sizeable, 62s. to 64s.; heavy, 60s. to 62s. per cwt. Lard has a downward tendency. Fine Irish bladdered is quoted at 71s. to 73s. landed. In other kinds of provisions very little is doing.

Tallow.—Although the demand is considered steady, prices are barely supported: P.Y.C., on the spot, 44s.; and for delivery during the last three months, 44s. 3d. per cwt. Town tallow, 44s. per cwt., net cash. Rough fat, 2s. 6d. per 8 lb.

Oils.—Generally speaking, the demand is heavy, and prices are barely supported. Lined, 32s. per cwt. Turpentine is lower; spirits being quoted at 43 1s.; in puncheons, 43; and rough, 18s. per cwt.

Spirits.—Rum is dull in sale, and lower. Proof Leewards, 1s. 11d. to 1s. 11½d.; East India, 1s. 10d. to 1s. 10½d.; and Bavanah, 1s. 9d. to 1s. 9½d. per gallon. Brandy heavy, at 100s. to 101s. Corn spirits support previous rates.

Coal.—Carr's Hartley, 10s. 6d.; Hasling's Hartley, 10s. 6d.; Holywell, 18s.; Tansfield Moor, 16s.; Towanley, 16s. 6d.; Northumberland, 10s. 3d.; Riddell, 10s. 9d.; Hutton, 19s.; Hough Hall, 18s.; Kellie, 18s. 5d.; Sower's, 19s. per ton.

Hay and Straw.—Meadow hay, 43 0s. to 44 12s.; clover ditto, 44 to 45 5s.; and straw 41 8s. to 41 16s. per load. Trade dull.

Hops.—The show being very moderate the demand continues steady, at full prices.

Wool.—English qualities are scarce, and in request, at fully previous rates. In foreign and colonial very little is doing.

Potatoes.—The imports of foreign potatoes are extensive; but the supplies of English continue limited. The demand is steady, at from 5s. to 10s. per ton.

Smithfield.—The supplies of beasts having been extensive, the demand for that description of stock has ruled inactive, at barely late rates. Sheep have come slowly to hand, yet the sale for them has been heavy, on former terms. In calves and pigs very little doing.

Beef.—From 2s. 10d. to 4s. 6d.; mutton, 3s. 10d. to 5s. 2d.; veal, 3s. 0d. to 4s. 6d.; pork, 2s. 10d. to 4s. per 8 lb., to sink the scale.

Neugate and Leadenhall.—The general demand has been in a sluggish state, as follows:—Beef, from 2s. 8d. to 3s. 6d.; mutton, 3s. 4d. to 4s. 6d.; veal, 3s. 6d. to 4s. 4d.; pork, 2s. 8d. to 4s. per 8 lb., by the carcass.

ROBERT HERBERT.

THE LONDON GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, MARCH 11.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.

J. BETTERIDGE, late of Chapel-street, Islington, and Whitcross-street, Cripplegate; now of Watlington, Oxfordshire, tea-dealer and grocer.

BANKRUPTS.

J. BURGESS, Over Tabley, Cheshire, contractor. H. PRIOR, Edwards-place, Hackney-road, and late of Wood-street, and H. ATKINSON, Wood street, Manchester, warehousemen. H. SIMMONDS, Ore, Sussex, brick-maker, dealer in bricks, and lodge-house keeper. JANE WALKER, Halifax, linen-draper. R. BAXTER, Wisbech St. Peter, Cambridgeshire, currier and leather seller. J. PLIMMER, Britten-street, Chelsea, brewer. T. W. BAKER, West Derby, Lancashire, and Liverpool, tobaccoist and cigar dealer. N. B. GRIBBS, Connaught-terrace, Edgware-road, chemist and druggist. C. F. HEWITT, Plymouth, butcher. J. J. SHEPHERD, 2nd, Dorchester, Dorsetshire. J. H. HOUNSALL, Stone, Newington-road, schoolmaster. R. SOLOMONS, 45, Holborn-hill, and Cumberland-place, Old Kent-road, and also of Surrey-place, Old Kent-road, furniture-broker. A. H. JENKINS, and E. J. WOODHOUSE, Gloucester, wine-merchants.

TUESDAY, MARCH 15.

WAR-OFFICE, MARCH 15.

The following Lieutenants to be promoted to be Captains, without purchase:—3rd Light Dragoons: E. G. Swinton. 9th: W. R. N. Campbell. 10th: T. S. Little. 14th: R. J. Brown. 15th: J. Macartney. 3rd Foot: E. J. Charter, R. C. Baynes. 10th: R. G. Jephson, C. D. Patterson. 16th: A. W. S. F. Armstrong, L. H. Hewitt. 2nd: H. G. Bowden, R. Blackall. 24th: C. Mackenzie, F. M. Greenall. 25th: G. Hunt, C. D. Paget. 26th: H. G. Walker, St. George M. Nugent. 32nd: H. J. Davies, G. Jeffrey. 51st: J. H. Dickson, J. W. Mansfield. 53rd: T. Moubay, M. H. Oldfield. 60th: S. Kenny. W. Hutchinson. 61st: A. Grant, D. R. Crossland. 64th: H. Francis, A. P. Bowley. 70th: J. M. Buchanan, A. G. O. Rutherford. 75th: W. T. Smith, E. W. J. Knox. 78th: A. Mackenzie, D. Hastings. 80th: G. S. Young, W. F. A. Colman. 83rd: R. H. P. Crawford, J. S. Molony. 84th: S. Hughes, C. A. Halford. 86th: J. R. Croker, C. G. Butler. 87th: J. H. Jefferies, J. Fitzgerald. 94th: J. S. Monzie, G. Dorchill. 96th: R. F. W. Cumberland, H. V. Mandell. 98th: H. T. Richmond, R. Young.

The following Cornets to be promoted to be Lieutenants, without purchase:—3rd Light Dragoons: F. T. O. Hopson, vice Swinton, 9th; R. C. Kidd, vice Campbell, 10th; E. M. R. Stapleton, vice Little, 14th; J. P. Kennedy, vice Brown, 15th; G. B. Price, vice Macartney. Commissions agreeably to the above list, to bear date the 15th day of March, 1853.

BANKRUPTS.

J. G. HARTLEY and W. J. REED, Prince's Dock, Rotherhithe and Fore-street, Limehouse, shipwrights. F. R. GRAHAM, 95, Fleet-street, licensed vintner. R. TEMPLE Brisley, Norfolk, grocer. J. DUNTHORN, 4, Broadwalk, Blackfriars-road, corn-dealer. F. YOUNG, 10, Union-place, Walworth-road, draper. R. S. HOGGILL, of Wolverhampton, builder. W. BUTTERWORTH, Mansfield, grocer. N. GUYE, Preston, Lancashire, tailor. W. GILL, late of Manchester, fustian manufacturer. J. BURGESS, Over Tabley, Cheshire, contractor.

SCOTCH SEQUESTERATIONS.

I. MIDDLETON, Stonehaven, Kincardineshire, woollen manufacturer. Rev. J. YOUNG, Haggis, Sirlingshire, dealer in minerals.

BIRTHS.

At Ford Hall, Sunderland, on the 11th inst., the wife of William Hay, Esq., of a son. On Friday, the 11th inst., at Quernmore Park, near Lancaster, the wife of William James Garnett, Esq., of a son. On the 12th inst., the lady of Sir William Heathcote, Bart., of a daughter. On the 11th January, at Barnack-park, India, the lady of Thomas Oldham, Esq., Director of the Geological Survey of India, of a son. At Orton Longueville, Hunts, the Countess of Aboune, of a son. On the 5th inst., the wife of the Rev. G. W. Pearce, Walton Rectory, Bucks, of a son. At Money-hill, Rickmansworth, the wife of the Rev. J. W. Conant, of twin sons. On the 10th inst., at 15, Curzon-street, the lady Gurnsey, of a daughter. On the 11th inst., at Prestonfield, Lady Dick Cunyngham, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

On the 3rd inst., at Corfu, Trophine George Gordon, of the 76th Regiment, youngest son of the late Sir James and the Right Hon. Lady Frances Webster Wedderburn, to Caroline, daughter of William Dixon, Esq., late Captain in the Royal Artillery. On the 12th inst., at St. James's, Westminster-terrace, Henry, youngest son of the late Edward Webster Bullock Webster, of Henden, Esq., to Rose, youngest daughter of Edward Levegh, Esq., of Gloucester-terrace, Hyde-park. At St. George's, Hanover-square, on the 16th inst., J. D. Gardner, Esq., to Ada, eldest daughter of W. Pigott, Esq., and grand-daughter of the late General Jefferson and the Viscountess Gormanson.

DEATHS.

On Monday, the 2nd ult., Moses Alfred, fourth son of Mr. John Radcliff, Spring-gardens, Church-gate, Stockport, and grandson of the late Mr. William Radcliff, of the same town, in view of the present system of manufacture called power-loom weaving. The Rev. Thomas Kerchever Arnold, Rector of Lyndon, Rutlandshire, and late Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge. On the 12th inst., at Sunbury, Middlesex, Colonel William Hankins, H.E.I.C.S., Madras Presidency, in his 78th year. On the 14th inst., at No. 18, Hyde-park-square, Katherine Eliza, the eldest daughter of the vice-Chancellor Kinsler. On the 12th inst., at Hognor, in his 56th year, Sir George Sitwell, Bart. On the 11th inst., Elizabeth, wife of the Rev. Francis Hawkins Cole, of Hyde-Jodge, Winchester, Hants. On the 12th inst., at Stockwell, Surrey, aged 80, Anne, the widow of the late Lieutenant-Colonel Hugh Rutherford. On the 17th inst., at Queen-street, Radcliff, Mary-Ann, the beloved wife of Joseph Hughes, and second daughter of the late Henry Dalton, Esq., of Ludlow, aged 21 years. On the 14th inst., at Clewer Lodge, Windsor, Frances Emilia Rivers, wife of Captain Bulkeley, late 1st Lif Guards. On the 5th inst., in his sixty-third year, Edward John Dent, of 61, Strand; 33, Cockspur-street; and 34, Royal Exchange, Chronometer and Watch-maker to her Majesty the Queen, and the Emperor of all the Russias. On the 16th inst., at No. 1, Addington-place, Camberwell, in the 25th year of her age, Anna Maria, the wife of Mr. Edward William Sercombe. On the 17th inst., at 6, Arundel street, Strand, Herbert, youngest son of the Rev. J. C. Gregory, Curate of St. Clement Dunes, aged two years and ten months.

THE

AMUSEMENTS, &c.

ROYAL PRINCESS' THEATRE, Oxford-street.—On Easter Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, Macbeth, and the new drama of Marco Spada, adapted from the French by Monsieur Scribe. Tuesday and Saturday, St. Cupid, or Dorothy's Fortune, and Marco Spada. Thursday, The Corsican Brothers and Marco Spada.

SACRED HARMONIC SOCIETY, EXETER-HALL.—Conductor, Mr. COSTA.—The customary performance of HANDEL'S MESSIAH in PASSION WEEK will take place on WEDNESDAY NEXT, the 23rd MARCH. Vocalists engaged: Miss Louisa Pyne, Miss Doby, Mr. Sims Reeves, and Mr. Weiss. The Orchestra (the most extensive available in Exeter-hall) will consist of (including 16 double basses) nearly 70 performers. Tickets, 3s., 2s., and 10s. 6d. each, may be had by early application at the Society's Office, No. 6, in Exeter-hall.—Country residents desiring tickets are advised to make immediate application, accompanied by a Post-office Order, payable to ROBERT BOWLEY, at Charing-cross Office.

LONDON SACRED HARMONIC SOCIETY, EXETER-HALL.—On THURSDAY, MARCH the 24th, HANDEL'S MESSIAH. Principal Vocalists: Miss Louisa Pyne, Miss Stabach, Miss M. Williams, Miss Clara Henderson, Mr. Lockey, and Mr. Lawler. Leader, Mr. H. Blagrove; Organist, Mr. T. Jolly. Tickets, 3s., 2s., and 10s. 6d. each. The Subscription to the Society is One, Two, or Three Guineas annually. Office of the Society, No. 9, Exeter-hall.

MR. H. BLAGROVE'S VIOLIN SOIREEs, to take place at 71, Mortimer-street, on WEDNESDAY EVENING, MARCH 20, April 27, May 25, and June 29, at eight o'clock, will include Selections from the Works of the great Violin Composers, some Classical Concerted Music, with eminent Vocal and Instrumental Talent.—Particulars to be had of Mr. H. Blagrove, 18, Alfred-place, Bedford-square; at the Rooms, and Principal Music-shops.

DISTIN'S PRESENTATION CONCERT, at the PRINCESS'S CONCERT-ROOMS.—4100 to be given away in property, consisting of musical instruments and music, to be divided into one hundred parts, and to be drawn for by the subscribers of the above concert. Among the presents will be given away a new rosewood Cottage Pianoforte 62 octaves, value £35; silver-plated Cornet, by H. Distin, £12 12s.; Dulcet Flutina, by Simpson, £10 10s.; Clarinet, by Case, £12 12s. Full particulars, naming the remainder of the one hundred presents, can be had of H. Distin, 31, Cranbourn-street, Leicester-square, London; Mr. G. Case, 32, New Bond-street; and Mr. Simpson, 29, Regent-street; by enclosing stamped envelope, with name and address. Each subscriber, on purchasing a ticket of admission to the concert, will, at the same time, be presented with a separate numbered ticket, and the above valuable presents will be awarded to any person holding the corresponding numbers to those drawn.—Tickets, 2s. each.

MR. JOHN PARRY'S PORTFOLIO for CHILDREN of all AGES.—Mr. John Parry will give the ENTERTAINMENT at the MUSIC HALL, STORE-STREET, on MONDAY EVENING, MARCH 28th, and following Mondays, commencing at half-past eight. Tickets to be had of the principal Music-shops. Also to be had only of Mr. R. K. OLIVER, 19, Old Bond-street; and Messrs. Leader and Co., New Bond-street.

ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.—During the EASTER WEEK, the celebrated Prestidigitateur, ROBERT HOUDIN, will exhibit his extraordinary Representations, entitled, SEANCES FANTASTIQUES, Every Evening, commencing MONDAY, MARCH 24; and a DAY PERFORMANCE on Wednesday and Saturday Mornings. Evening, at Half-past Eight; Morning, at Half-past Two. Doors open half an hour previous. Stalls, 7s.; Boxes, 4s.; 2s., Gallery, 1s. THE FRENCH PLAYERS, a company of national and historical interest, by H. Robinson, after H. C. Selous; and CHRIST LED TO CRUCIFIXION.—In addition to the above Two Prints, each Print-holder will be entitled to select for himself a work of Art from one of the Public Exhibitions. GEORGE GODWIN, Honorary Secretary, 44, West Strand, London, 1853.

THE NATIONAL INSTITUTION OF FINE ARTS, PORTLAND GALLERY, 316, Regent-street, opposite the Royal Polytechnic Institution. This Exhibition of Modern Pictures is now OPEN DAILY, from Nine till Dusk. Admission, 1s. Catalogue, 6d. BELL SMITH, Secretary.

THE ROYAL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION is now CLOSED, until EASTER MONDAY, for the purpose of erecting new Rooms for the Photographic Department of Machinery, Works of Art, &c., are received for Exhibition, free of expense to the Depositors.

EASTER HOLIDAYS.—The Immense Collection of Living Animals in the ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS, REGENT'S-PARK, will be OPEN to Visitors EVERY DAY in EASTER WEEK, except Saturday, on payment of SIXPENCE each person.

PHOTOGRAPHY.—Students are informed that they may enter upon a course of instruction in all the branches of the above art, at the PHOTOGRAPHIC DEPARTMENT of the ROYAL PANOPTICON OF SCIENCE and ART, IN LECESTER-SQUARE, on and after MONDAY, 21st inst. By order of the Council. T. J. BROWN, Secretary.

ART-UNION OF LONDON.—(By ROYAL CHARTER).—The Subscription-list will close 31st inst. Special notice of the Terms of the Union, and of the various Exhibitions, may be seen at the Office, viz., THE SUBURBAN GALLERY, a work of national and historical interest, by H. Robinson, after H. C. Selous; and CHRIST LED TO CRUCIFIXION.—In addition to the above Two Prints, each Print-holder will be entitled to select for himself a work of Art from one of the Public Exhibitions. GEORGE GODWIN, Honorary Secretary, 44, West Strand, London, 1853.

AT A PUBLIC MEETING held the 28th day of February, 1853, at the Cock Inn, Sarraat, Herts, of the Landowners, Lessees, Occupiers, and others interested in the construction of a RAILWAY from the WATFORD STATION on the LONDON and NORTH-WESTERN LINE, through RICKMANSWORTH, CHOLEWOOD, CHENIES, and CHALFONT ST. GILES, to AMERSHAM; The Rev. WILLIAM MOORE BRABAZON, in the Chair; On the motion of Mr. Clarke, and seconded by Mr. Branton:

1. Resolved.—That as the proposed railway from Watford to Amersham will prove highly beneficial to the district, the project meets with the approval of this meeting.

On the motion of Mr. Curtis, seconded by Mr. Barnett:

2. Resolved.—That a vote of thanks be given to the Directors of the London and North-Western Railway Company, for promoting a measure so essential to this neighbourhood.

WM. MOORE BRABAZON, Chairman.

FREEHOLDS for ALL CLASSES in ALL COUNTIES.—The CONSERVATIVE LAND SOCIETY, 33, Norfolk-street, Strand.—The Fifth Purchase, within Five Months, has just been made at Wood Green, Tottenham. All persons desirous of obtaining allotments on the eligible estate may insure their right by paying up shares in full at once, and all who join by payment of the first month's subscription and fees, 12s. 6d. for one share, on or before Wednesday, the 10th of March, will participate in the advantage of the public drawing for free choice, on this and the other estates of the Society, at the Freemasons' Tavern, Great Queen-street, on Thursday, March 17, at Three o'clock.—Vice-president in the chair.—being the Second Quarterly Meeting of the Conservative Land Society. The Wood-green property is situated midway and near three stations on the Great Northern and Eastern Counties Railroads, and is at an easy distance from Hornsey, Southgate, Enfield, Edmonton, &c. CHARLES LEWIS GRUNEISEN, Secretary.

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The sword of Charles disappeared some years since, no one, seemingly, knowing by what means; but it is not, perhaps, generally known that the George pendent from the ribbon has also been taken away. That it once hung in its proper place is evident from a hole in the metal ribbon, whence the George should hang.

The taking of the cast has been confided to Mr. Brucciani, and the work is now in progress. The mould of the statue (horse and figure) is completed; it required three tons of plaster, and ten hundred weight of



TAKING A PLASTER CAST OF THE STATUE OF CHARLES THE FIRST, AT CHARING-CROSS.

iron. The greater portion of the statue is also cast from the mould, and has further taken one ton and a half of plaster. The statue will be supported on the pedestal by irons, two inches square, weighing upwards of seventy pounds each, and carried through the legs into the body of the horse. It is calculated that in making the moulds, and cast, and erecting the latter, twenty-two tons of plaster, and fifteen tons of iron, will be used.

In forming the mould of the pedestal, not yet completed, it is believed that nine tons of plaster will be used; and in the cast of the same, six tons.

It may be interesting to add the dimensions of the statue and pedestal; the latter long admired as Gibbons's work, but recently proved to be the production of another artist.

The pedestal (the original in stone), measures 13 ft. 8 in. high, 9 ft. 11 in. long, 5 ft. 7 in. wide.

The statue (in metal) bears the following measurement:—Height from foot to top of horse's head, 7 ft. 8 in.; height from plinth to top of figure, 9 ft. 2½ in.; height from plinth to neck of horse, 6 ft.; height of plinth to top of hind quarters, 5 ft. 10 in.; length from head to tail, 7 ft. 9 in.; circumference of horse, measured from back of saddle-cloth, 8 ft. 2 in.; measurement of horse round chest and hind-quarters, 16 ft.

The metal casting around the left forefoot of the horse bears the following inscription:—HYBER(T) LESVEVR (FECIT) 1633. The pedestal does not bear any name.

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